

Huskers Illustrated

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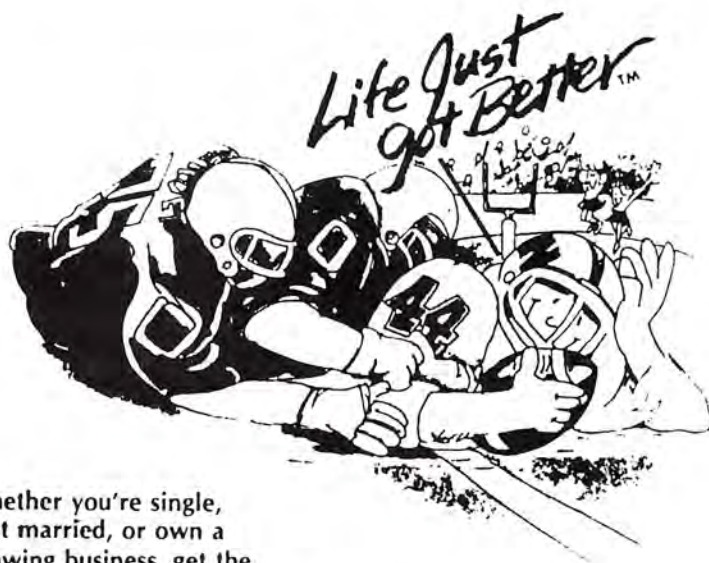
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HEISMAN HALFBACK

Dear Huskers:

A *Huskers Illustrated* reader recently wrote in and said they thought Steve Taylor should be tried at I-back for the Huskers. Realistically, that's not going to happen because he's so valuable at quarterback and because he's a senior and wouldn't have time to adjust. But I think the idea is fantastic.

I truly feel Steve Taylor is one of the

most gifted runners I've seen in college football this year. He has the size (6-0, 200) and speed (4.5 electronic) and the most unbelievable moves I've ever seen. If I were an NFL team, I would offer Taylor so much money to play halfback that he couldn't afford to play quarterback. And do you know what the beauty of this deal is? Taylor is smart. He knows offense.

I hope the Raiders and Rams see this,

because they ought to draft Taylor. He'd be happy to play near his home, wouldn't he? Let me tell you, Taylor will break some records in the NFL as a running back. I think he will be a big surprise in pro football, and you read it here first.

Pat Kroger

Grand Island, Neb.

JVs ARE A-OK

Dear Huskers:

Thank you for your in-depth coverage of the junior varsity games so far this season. This is the *only* information I get on the up-and-coming Huskers for the future. Of course, we get ample stories on the varsity Nebraska football games because we are a national power, but people out here just don't appreciate that Nebraska has two Top 20 teams, and the second one is the Husker junior varsity.

Again, congratulations to Coach (Shane)Thorell and the junior Huskers. George McCashland
Winnemucca, Nev.

1989 QBs

Dear Huskers:

With Steve Taylor about to finish his fine career, have the Husker coaches started thinking about the quarterback situation for next year? We really haven't had a situation this year like we had with Clete Blakeman, who seemed to play quite a bit in 1987 and 1986. Taylor has kind of handled the big load all by himself this season. Is Mickey Joseph expected to take over the job immediately, and who are the other guys who'll be in the hunt?

Clark Ashburn
Fairbury, Neb.

Clark: It's very early to guess, but Joseph, Gerry Gdowski and true freshman Mike Grant look to be the key competitors for next spring practice. Keithen McCant (recruited in the 1987 class) has also done well on the scout team this fall. Jerry Dunlap could likewise be in the picture. It'll be a young crew; Gdowski is the only player who will be a senior in 1989.

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

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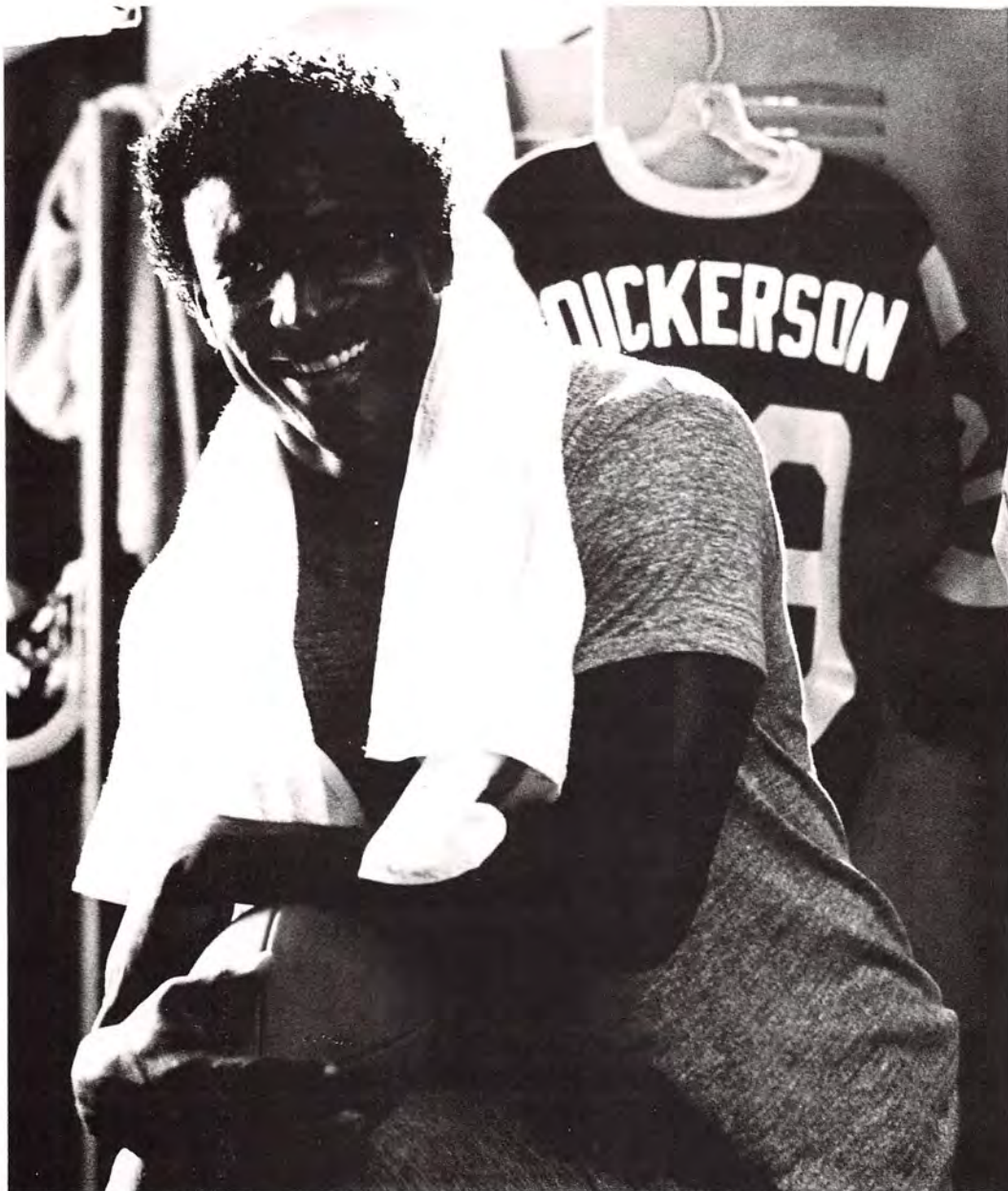


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King-Size Comeback

FORMER HUSKER ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR MILLER
WORKS TOWARD A BETTER TOMORROW.

Even at age 30, Junior Miller has the intimidating tight-end physique that bruised defensive backs and made NFL scouts cry with joy.

His thick arms stretch out of his T-shirt like the solid limbs of a Nebraska oak; his neck, a wide stalk on top of a sturdy 6-foot-4 trunk.

You can still imagine him playing professional football, catching the ball like he did in his playing days at Nebraska where he became only one of eight Cornhusker receivers to gain more than 1,000 yards.

But Junior Miller's life has taken a different route. To find him today, you

have to take a slant pattern through a maze of south Lincoln commercial buildings and make a cut down an alley behind a motorcycle shop.

There, in an inconspicuous warehouse tucked into a nook in the alley, you'll find Miller most of the time. Working to get a business he shares with his wife off the ground, working to get out of debt, and working on a new life.

Instead of reaching for football passes, Miller is reaching out — for new business clients at his bulk-mailing business, and more importantly, to others he hopes to dissuade from a life of alcohol and drugs that nearly killed him.

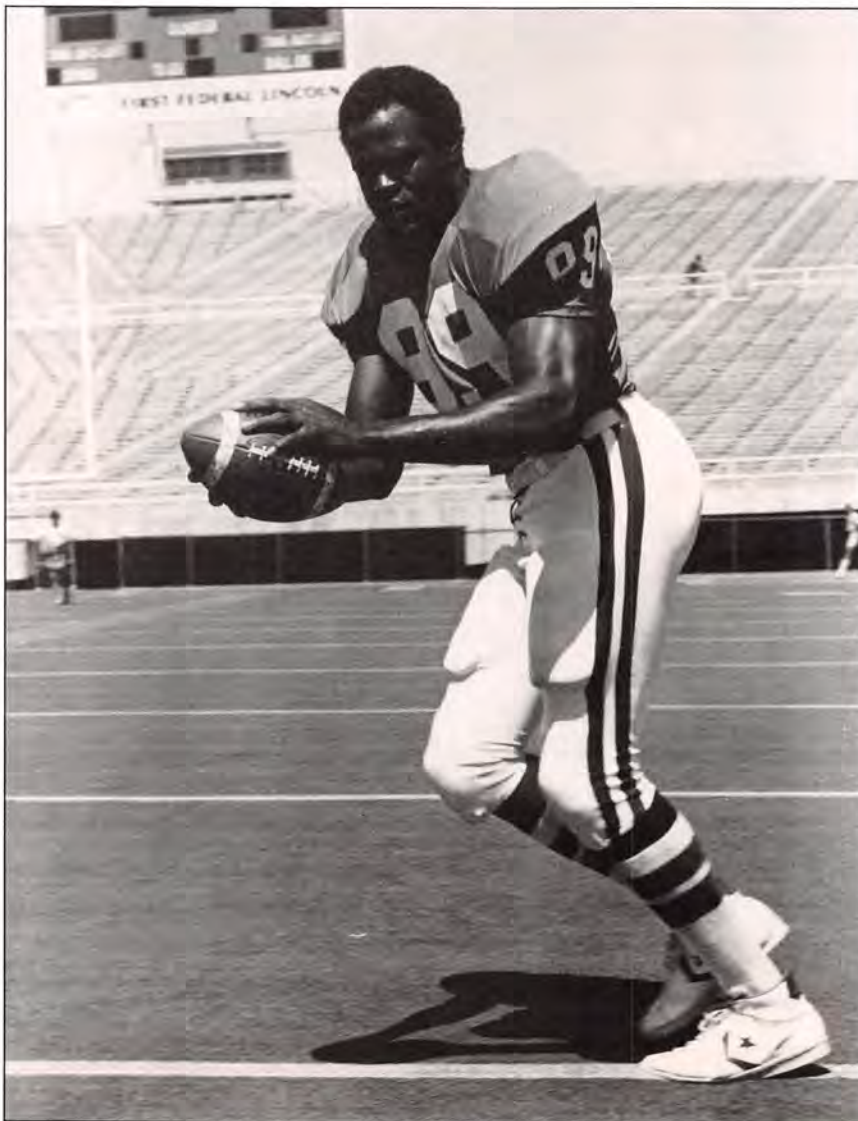
That Junior Miller is alive to deliver those commercial and spiritual messages is a miracle.

After earning All-America honors at Nebraska, the 222-pound tight end was a first-round draft pick of the Atlanta Falcons. He hauled in 55 passes for 1,045 yards in college. Miller couldn't miss in the pros. He had the speed (4.64 seconds in the 40-yard dash) of a running back, the strength of an offensive guard, the size of a basketball center (he played with the NU basketball team part of one season), and the hands of a wide receiver.

They couldn't build a tight end any better if they wanted: Miller was a muscular Adonis on astroturf, a tower of power with the pigskin. Move over Kellen Winslow, said the prognosticators.

It nearly happened. The native of Midland, Tex., was named twice to the NFL Pro Bowl during his four years with the Falcons, catching a career-high 41 passes his rookie season.

In 1984, he asked to be traded after feuding with Atlanta quarterback Steve Bartkowski and was shipped to New Orleans. He still had the tools, the tight





end body-perfect. But a year later, Miller was out of football, his contract released by the Saints after he held out for a better contract.

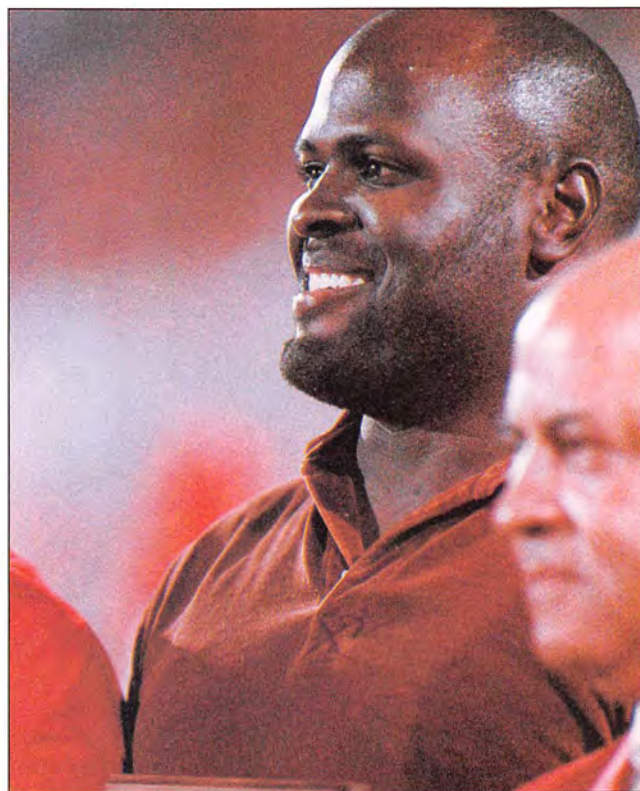
It was Miller Time, and not in the glamorized TV commercial way. Junior Miller became a drunk, big time.

"I had become wealthy and had reached all the goals I'd set for myself in high school," he said. "When I'd accomplished all the things that I'd set as far as wealth and being drafted by a NFL team in the first round and becoming All-Pro, there wasn't anything left for Junior Miller to accomplish."

He thought he had everything he'd always wanted in life. He didn't understand that there was more to life than sports and fame. That's when he turned to alcohol . . . to a point that it got control of him.

He had always drank, but not like this. Between pro football practices, he'd sneak two or three beers; at night, a case. At the height of his binge, Miller would down a case of beer and a fifth of whiskey a day, and smoke three to

Junior Miller holds six school records for tight ends and has been inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame.



Full Responsibility

Junior Miller is the last person to blame the pressures of sports for his past problems with alcohol.

"It'd be easy to point fingers at other things and other individuals for your problems, but I think takes a real human being and real man to look at himself," he said. "The things that happened to Junior Miller were because of Junior Miller. I made the decision myself.

"I was an 18-, 19-, 20-year-old who wanted to try things and got caught up in it. Through the grace of God, I got a second chance in life."

Many athletes, many people, don't get a second chance, Miller said, mentioning others who had committed suicide.

Now, Miller said he's more responsible in his life and to his

wife, his 5-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son.

Looking back, Miller said he barely "scratched the surface" of his abilities in pro football.

"If I had a chance to do it again, I wouldn't go that route — there's more in life than football, more opportunities out there. I would have chosen another profession. Life has so much more to offer."

Miller said he had an offer to be a college coach but turned it down because of the uncertainty of the profession.

He does have one hope for someone who chose it as a profession: a national championship for Tom Osborne.

"If any coach deserves one, he deserves it. He's put so much time and effort into it, and he's such a dedicated person."



Miller follows the Huskers closely.

four packs of cigarettes.

He hit rock bottom on one summer evening. After drinking since 7 a.m., Miller visited his home to try and patch up an argument with his wife Carol. Carol wanted a divorce, and after another fight, threw him out of the house.

Miller climbed into his van and for some reason ended up at Branched Oak Lake outside of Lincoln. As he stared across the water, a voice inside of him told him to commit suicide.

"As I sat there, I really started to hurt inside because I started to look back on my life and think about the things that I had done," Miller said. "All I saw were a bunch of medals and rewards, and a lot of money — things that weren't anything. I mean, I was still empty.

"I was miserable. . . I was nobody, I was washed up, I wasn't any good."

Instead of reaching for a rope, Miller reached for Jesus Christ. He'll tell you that it was the most important reception of his life.

"I just asked for help — I yelled out, cried out. I'd never really been a Christian man. I knew the Lord; I believed in God. But I was the type if somebody came to me and tried to get inside my head, I'd shoo them away.

"By His grace and mercy, I was able to pull out of it. For the first time in my life. . . all the pressure was lifted off of me. It was like the battle was over with.

"At that moment I'd found what I was searching for. Automatically, my life changed."

Junior Miller is behind a desk now, working to build a business, helping supply jobs to willing workers and paying off the bills accumulated during his drunken, irresponsible years.

He said he hasn't had a desire to drink or smoke since that privately turbulent night at Branched Oak Lake. Miller said he's never been happier.

"I'm having the time of my life for the first time in my life," he said. "I didn't know as a young man that I was setting goals for the wrong things and for the wrong purposes in life. When I accepted the Lord, I had a purpose."

Financially, things didn't improve immediately. But Miller has slowly been climbing out of his private pit.

He sat out the 1985 pro season, then

worked himself into the best physical shape of his life and gave pro football one more chance with the team of his childhood dreams: the Dallas Cowboys.

It didn't happen. His heart just wasn't in it.

"I just didn't have that mean streak," Miller said to compete in the dog-eat-dog world of pro football. "I wasn't the same Junior Miller."

He had worked as a \$3-an-hour laborer during his year off from football, moving furniture and digging basements among other things. It was a drastic cut from his \$20,000-a-month salary as a football player, but it was a job. "I wasn't too proud to get into a ditch; it's work," Miller said.

He was urged to file bankruptcy during the period. "Everything I had was taken from me. I didn't have anything," Miller said, which included his house and cars. Miller said, however, that he rejected filing for bankruptcy because

he believed in paying back people in full.

Eighteen months ago, Miller was fired from a sales job because, he said, he wouldn't attend a party where alcohol was served. He and his wife then formed a bulk-mailing business, Miller Mailing, which sorts, addresses and mails letters and brochures for some of Lincoln's larger businesses and institutions.

From the back-alley location, employees labor late into the night, working under Miller's rules: no drinking, no smoking, no swearing.

Within two months, the business was meeting its rent payments. Now, with nine full-time and more than 20 part-time workers, the company is helping Miller pay off his debts.

"Hopefully, someday we'll be completely clear. . . we will be because that's my main objective."

Besides building his business, Miller

said he hopes to devote more time to talking to kids about the dangers of alcohol abuse, and someday write a book about his life. The title: *From Rags to Riches to Righteousness*.

Miller said he's still a die-hard Husker — an NU victory makes his week and a Nebraska loss spoils it — though his life as a football player is behind him.

"I don't play football now," he once said. "I play for people's lives."

You can see that when you walk into his business.

The first thing you notice is a painting on the wall of two hands, reaching downward as if to grab those walking by to help them.

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Three-for-Three

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"That kind of stuff just doesn't happen in the modern era," says Danny Nee. "I'm ecstatic."

"I really think that's important. It shows we have stability. It shows we're putting down roots, making a commitment to the student-athlete."

Henry Buchanan, Derrick Vick and Jeff Rekeweg, seniors on the Nebraska

basketball team last season, all are on schedule to graduate in December.

Their expected graduation is a source of excitement for Nee, who's in his third season as Cornhusker head coach. It's one of the first things to which he'll point when talking about the development of his program.

"You can tell a program's headed in the right direction," Nee says. "You

might not use this as a barometer, and the fans might not, but I do."

It's not just that they're graduating, of course. Buchanan, Vick and Rekeweg all transferred to Nebraska from junior colleges. The graduation rate under Nee's predecessors, particularly for junior college transfers, was considerably less than admirable.

"You're always going to have casualties," says Nee. "But we went three-for-three. That's very significant. It shows junior college players and other people who come into our program that we're committed."

It also shows "the magnificent job Al Papik and his staff have done."

Papik, Nebraska's assistant athletic director for administrative and academic services, passes the praise along to Dr. Roger Grooters, the director of academic programs.

Grooters is experienced in overseeing academic and athletic programs.

He earned his doctorate in educational administration at Nebraska after completing a six-year degree in the same field at St. Cloud State. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from North Dakota State, where he taught physical education for eight years and coached track and field.

Grooters was the head cross country coach and a track assistant at both Oklahoma and Missouri before becoming the athletic director for the South Washington County Schools in Cottage Grove, Minn. He assumed his current responsibilities in July of 1987.

Grooters is pleased with the classroom accomplishments of the three soon-to-graduate basketball players.

"We couldn't be happier," he says, echoing Nee's sentiments.

Actually, Grooters replaced Papik as the athletic department's top academic adviser when Papik was promoted to his current position. At the time of the changeover, the counseling system was restructured and expanded, with input from Papik and Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne as well as Grooters.

Counseling services for men's and women's athletics were combined and a "mentor-tutor" program was established. "The mentor-tutor program is more sophisticated than the tutorial programs of the past," Grooters says.



Derrick Vick has Coach Danny Nee on track for a 100 percent graduation rate.

Tutors now work with and monitor student-athletes much closer and more often than in the past, helping them in such areas as time management, test taking and general study skills.

Every new student-athlete, whether he or she is an incoming freshman or a junior college transfer, is assigned a mentor-tutor, Grooters says.

That mentor-tutor works with the student-athlete to develop study skills and assigns tutors in specific subject areas based on his or her needs.

Student-athletes often have several subject tutors, who usually double as mentor-tutors. The tutorial staff is approximately 80 to 90 strong.

"Before, when a student-athlete had a problem with English, he or she was assigned an English tutor. We've continued to recommend specialty tutors, but we've also broadened the scope (of advising) to include all aspects of academic life," says Grooters.

The mentor-tutors monitor the academic progress of athletes week-to-week.

Grooters has supplemented the mentor-tutor program with career counseling, which encourages athletes to explore potential career areas and assists them in such things as resume writing and going through job interviews.

His office surveyed last year's football team and learned that 40 percent of the players believed they would have a professional football career. In fact, only a very small percentage of college football players ever go on to play professionally.

"A lot of kids have that dream," Grooters says. "They think, 'Geez, I played right next to that guy (at Nebraska) and he's playing pro ball. Maybe I can play, too.'"

Equally alarming to an educator is the fact that 20 percent of the football players surveyed had no career goals.

Although his office has not yet surveyed basketball players, Grooters expects a similar response.

"It's the same in the general student body at the University," according to Grooters. "We knew we needed to zero in on that, help the kids make career decisions based on information."

So Keith Zimmer works with student-athletes in career counseling, setting up

workshops and career nights as well as networking with companies in Lincoln and Omaha and out-of-state.

"It's a learning process for us, too," says Grooters. "We find now we're a long way ahead of where we were a year ago in this area."

One thing's for sure, though.

"Students with career goals are much better motivated than students who bounce from one eligibility crisis to the next," Grooters says.

Buchanan and Vick have benefitted from yet another part of the athletic department's academic counseling program. Both have worked as interns with State Farm Insurance, and "both will be offered positions in that organization" upon completion of their degrees in December, says Grooters.

Vick just began his internship this semester. Buchanan got started during the summer, and "they couldn't be happier with Henry," Grooters says.

Buchanan is a special source of pride for Nee's program. He was a unanimous choice for Academic All-Big Eight, compiling better than a 3.0 grade-point average in his accounting studies.

Not bad for someone whose high school grades were far from brilliant. "I liked to party a lot in high school," Buchanan once told a reporter.

"That's why I didn't take care of my academics like I was supposed to."

Buchanan, a fan favorite, earned the rank of sergeant in the United States Air Force before becoming a college basketball player. For him, basketball was simply a means to an end — having his college education paid for.

When his basketball coach in the Air Force helped him get a junior college scholarship, "he was just trying to figure out a way for me to get a free education," Buchanan said.

The Air Force "taught me how to work," said Buchanan, who could have been happy with a military career.

"But my coach said, 'You can always better yourself with an education.'"

Buchanan obviously took that to heart. He, Vick and Rekeeweg are now held up as role models for the basketball team.

From the day he arrived at Nebraska, Nee has emphasized the importance of players completing degrees. And

there's no questioning his sincerity.

Grooters' office conducts study halls that all freshmen football and basketball players are required to attend: four sessions a week, two hours per session. Football players whose cumulative grade-point average is below 2.3 also must attend. Nee is even more demanding, according to Grooters.

Every basketball player, regardless of his class, must attend the study halls. The only exceptions "are a couple of players who had 3.3 or 3.4 grade-point averages," says Grooters.

"In general, if you're below a 3.0, you've got to be there."

A 3.0 is a B or better. Beau Reid, a third-year sophomore on the basketball team, earned a 3.23 grade-point average in general studies last year to earn honorable mention on the academic all-conference team.

The mentor-tutor and career counseling programs have been successful already, and they're getting even better.

"We took a couple of knocks last year until we got it turned around," Grooters says, adding that Cornhusker coaches, in general, are very conscious of recruiting student-athletes.

"I think with our programs, Proposition 48, plus the awareness, concern and attention that the media and the public have given academic excellence, we have a good start," Grooters said when he was hired.

"Student-athletes have different needs and greater demands on their time because of practice, team meetings and games. We hope to bring the marginal student-athletes up to standards the rest of the student population must meet. And we hope to help the exceptional student-athletes pursue their academic goals."

Grooters and his staff seem to be headed in the right direction, at least as far as Nee is concerned.

"We're excited," says Nee.

He believes success in the classroom will translate into success on the basketball court. His program will mature "when we have good players who are good students. Then, we're going to have a championship team," he says.

Right now, when it comes to junior college transfers, he's batting 1.000. ■

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TNT

NEBRASKA EXPLODED PAST THE CONFIDENT COWBOYS IN A SPECTACULAR OFFENSIVE FIREBALL.

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska's offensive unit apparently took exception to comparisons between The Triplets of NU in 1983 and Oklahoma State's current triple threat.

They must have thought, "We had, and still have, the better offensive weapons, not you."

That message never appeared on the Memorial Stadium scoreboard for the 76,432 fans to see, but the Cornhuskers quickly expressed those feelings to the visiting Cowboys.

The Big Red offense steamrolled to 306 yards the first quarter and a 42-0 lead before OSU's Triplets (Mike Gundy, Barry Sanders and Hart Lee Dykes) could show their stuff and rally to make the 63-42 final score more respectable.

Sanders, Dykes and Gundy did eventually resemble NU's 1983 trio of Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar. However, a Nebraska threesome — Steve Taylor, Ken Clark and Todd Milikan — prompted some comparisons of their own.

Heisman Trophy candidate Taylor, NU's All-American quarterback, carried the football 11 times for 140 yards and three touchdowns, including runs of 60 and 43 yards in the first quarter. He found time to complete six of 11 passes for 92 yards and two more scores while calling audibles 20-30 percent of the time.

I-back Clark started and ended Nebraska's opening drive with a 73-yard TD run and finished with 256 yards on 27 carries, second best single-game rushing total in NU history.

Although not as fast as Dykes or Fryar, Cornhusker tight end Millikan caught three passes from Taylor for 52 yards and two touchdowns. He tied Nebraska All-American Junior Miller for most career TD receptions among tight ends with 12.



Taylor (9) had the second-best rushing game of his career.

NU's scoring explosion (42 points in 18 minutes) turned the expected showdown, possibly for the Big Eight title, into a never-ending chase for Oklahoma State.

Points were expected in the 29th meeting of the Cowboys and Huskers because they entered the game ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively in scoring in NCAA Division I-A.

The frequency and quickness of NU's touchdowns, however, surprised everybody.

When the Husker advantage went to 42-0 on Clark's third touchdown, a

2-yard run, "I was thinking this is unbelievable," Taylor said. "We played against UNLV and we couldn't even score the first quarter."

NU head coach Tom Osborne said, "It was almost like the UCLA game all over again."

But Nebraska players "were really pumped up," before the OSU game, said All-American linebacker Broderick Thomas.

One play after Nebraska started its first offensive drive, it would have been the understatement of the year to say the Huskers were "pumped up."

Clark ran off left guard, broke a couple of tackles, and scooted past a block by Millikan before racing 73 yards. NU players on the sideline and fans went berserk on the play.

The quick score not only quadrupled the decibel level in Memorial Stadium, but it gave Clark confidence.

A 5-foot-9, 200-pound junior from

Omaha, Clark pushed his season rushing total to 737 yards with a hard-running, tackle-breaking effort.

"I thought he ran with more confidence today," said NU running backs coach Frank Solich. "He really showed he is a great back. He stepped up a notch.

"Getting off to a good start didn't

hurt. The first play, I'm sure, helped him."

Clark's performance, which ranks second only to Rozier's 285 yards versus Kansas in 1983, came despite an ankle twist in the first half.

"I like the fact that he got a little banged up and came back in the second half and performed well," Solich said. "He's really developing the mental toughness that the great backs run with. All along we felt he had excellent athletic ability, and he was going to put it together in a game."

Clark's initial sprint served as an opening-event in the Husker Invitational Track Meet.

Gundy guided Oklahoma State's second drive from the Cowboy 9 to Nebraska's 25 before cornerback Charles Fryar intercepted a pass intended for Dykes and ran down the east sideline for an 86-yard touchdown return.

Husker captain and strong safety Mark Blazek intercepted a Gundy pass on the Cowboys' fourth play of their third possession. Clark then scored from the 9, three plays later after he gained 33 yards on an option, and wingback Richard Bell ran a reverse play for 38 yards.

Taylor ended NU's next two possessions with his long touchdown runs, the second when the senior from Fresno, Calif., broke out of the pocket. Split end Morgan Gregory threw a downfield block on Taylor's first score and Millikan laid a key block during the NU quarterback's second TD.

Nebraska marched 68 yards in seven plays to score on its first possession of the second quarter and led 42-0 with 11:42 remaining in the half.

"The ball just bounced our way at the beginning of the game," Millikan said.

Big Red coaches tried to convince their players the game was not over. OSU, ranked 10th nationally and averaging 50.3 points and 471 yards per game, is "capable of scoring at a tremendously quick pace," Solich said.

Sanders carried four times for 44 yards, including the final 9, during OSU's subsequent drive when the Cowboys marched 74 yards.

Rod Smith, the Cowboys' top tackler with 11, intercepted a Taylor pass on NU's third play after Sanders' TD.



Dana Brinson (33) and other NU backs had plenty of running room.

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 63, Oklahoma State 42

Oklahoma State.....	0	21	7	14	— 42
Nebraska.....	35	14	7	7	— 63

Neb — Clark 73 run (Drennan kick).
 Neb — Fryar 86 interception return (Drennan kick).
 Neb — Clark 9 run (Drennan kick).
 Neb — Taylor 60 run (Drennan kick).
 Neb — Taylor 43 run (Drennan kick).
 Neb — Clark 2 run (Drennan kick).
 OSU — Sanders 9 run (Blanchard kick).
 OSU — Sanders 1 run (Blanchard kick).
 Neb — Millikan 32 pass from Taylor (Drennan kick).
 OSU — Dykes 12 pass from Gundy (Blanchard kick).
 Neb — Millikan 13 pass from Taylor (Drennan kick).
 OSU — Sanders 1 run (Blanchard kick).
 Neb — Taylor 9 run (Barrios kick).
 OSU — Sanders 4 run (Blanchard kick).
 OSU — Nash 20 pass from Gundy (Blanchard kick).

Attendance: 76,432

Smith returned the ball to NU's 1-yard line, and Sanders dove into the end zone two plays later.

The teams traded touchdowns the rest of the game with Nebraska owning either a 35- or 28-point margin until a Gundy-to-Mitch Nash touchdown pass with 1:34 remaining in the game.

Millikan caught a touchdown pass in the second quarter (32 yards) and third quarter (13 yards) and Taylor tallied from 9 yards out in the final period.

Injuries caused the Big Red offense to slow down after its opening-quarter explosion while a lack of Black Shirt intensity and OSU's Triplets provided for the Cowboys' offensive success.

Nebraska gained 452 yards before intermission and finished with 662, tying for 10th place on the all-time total offense list.

Of their fourth-highest ever total of 570 rushing yards, the Huskers gained 384 during the first two periods.

"We hardly had anybody in the offensive line left in the fourth quarter," Osborne said. "We were playing seconds and sometimes thirds all the way across the line."

Moving the football "just got harder as the game went along because we just didn't have the people in there."

NU trainers reported starting guards Andy Keeler and John Nelson suffered injured ankles, as did right tackle Doug Glaser. Second-team tackle Tom Punt entered the game less than full speed, and center Jake Young played hurt.

"I don't know how many guys we're going to have to play next week," Osborne said.

Still, Taylor claimed, "If we needed to score a hundred, I think we could have done that."

They didn't have to crack the century mark, but the Huskers needed half that. The combined 105 points by NU and OSU represents the most ever scored by two teams in Memorial Stadium.

The Cowboys' Triplets accounted for 422 of Oklahoma State's 455 yards in total offense.

Dykes caught seven passes for 125 yards to surpass Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers and claim the Big Eight career receiving yardage title with 2,440 yards through Saturday's game. He also moved atop



Mike Croel (83) and the Black Shirts had their hands full against the talented Pokes.

the conference all-time reception chart with 156 catches, six more than previous leader Tracey Henderson, formerly of Iowa State.

With 189 yards on 35 carries, Sanders passed the 1,000-yard mark for the season (1,002) and his four touchdowns gave him 114 points on the year.

Gundy completed 17 of 30 passes for 247 yards and two touchdowns, but he threw three interceptions.

Nebraska's secondary kept busy Saturday. Strong safety Reggie Cooper led the Black Shirts with 10 total tackles and free safety Tim Jackson made six stops and one interception.

"Their offense is great," said defensive tackle Willie Griffin, who along with Lawrence Pete and Kent Wells led NU linemen with five total tackles.

"You can't really key on anybody. They have so many players to go to, you have to play them honest."

Osborne attributed part of OSU's offensive success to his team's early advantage.

"When a team takes a 35- or 40-point lead," Osborne said, "no matter how hard you try, it's hard to maintain defensive intensity."

The Cornhuskers' head coach may have understood the intensity letdown, but the Black Shirts expressed disappointment.

Thomas, who finished with eight total tackles as did fellow linebackers Chris Caliendo and LeRoy Etienne, said a team hunting the Big Eight title "should be able to go out and play 60 minutes of football. I think the guys are going to have to dig down and let our hearts play."

Taylor and other healthy first-time offensive players remained in the ballgame until the final minute and a half.

Only eight Cornhuskers carried the

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Clark Performs with Pain

If first impressions are any indication, the 76,432 fans in Memorial Stadium Saturday, should have developed high expectations for NU I-back Ken Clark.

They were not disappointed.

Clark, a junior from Omaha, ran off-guard on Nebraska's first play from scrimmage against Oklahoma State,

broke a few tackles, and raced 73 yards to put the Cornhuskers ahead for good.

The 5-foot-9, 200-pounder finished the day with 27 carries for 256 yards, second-highest, single-game effort in Nebraska history.

Saturday's total represented Clark's second career game of more than 100

yards. He gained 122 yards against Arizona State Sept. 24.

Although the Huskers' top I-back entered the OSU tilt with self confidence, running backs coach Frank Solich thought the performance enhanced those feelings.

"I think from here on out, he'll have a lot more confidence," Solich said.

Clark added scoring runs of 9 and 2 yards to bring his season total to nine touchdowns. He has now rushed for 737 yards in 1988.

Against the Cowboys, Clark took off on runs of 73, 33, 17, 12, 29, 10 and 12 yards while breaking tackles along the way.

"Ken Clark really showed signs of being the kind of back we thought he could be," said NU Head Coach Tom Osborne. "I think he showed great balance today. Golly, he was tough to knock off his feet."

Largely because of Clark and quarterback Steve Taylor (11 rushes, 140 yards), the Cornhuskers totaled 570 rushing yards, fourth highest in Nebraska history.

Clark twisted an ankle during the first half and Tyreese Knox filled in at I-back for a spell.

However, Clark returned after intermission and gained 71 additional yards on 16 carries.

Solich praised Clark, who "had a history of having injuries keep him off the field," for playing with pain. ■



Clark (32) scored three times, here greeted by Richard Bell.

Photo by John Bills

football, with fullback Bryan Carpenter gaining a season-high 76 yards on seven carries and I-back Tyreese Knox rushing 10 times for 53 yards.

Osborne, "probably (because of) paranoia on my part," did not feel comfortable until Jamie Worden recovered an Oklahoma State onside kick after the Cowboys closed within 21 points.

"We scored 63 points today and we couldn't relax," Griffin said. "I think we did relax too much and they stuck it to us. I'm not really satisfied with the win.

"The defense didn't play well the second half at all. We haven't played a full game yet."

The Cowboys probably wish they hadn't played an entire game Saturday. The final three quarters would have been enough.

"I'd give anything to have the game start over," Gundy said. "But you get to play them once a year and that's the way it is."

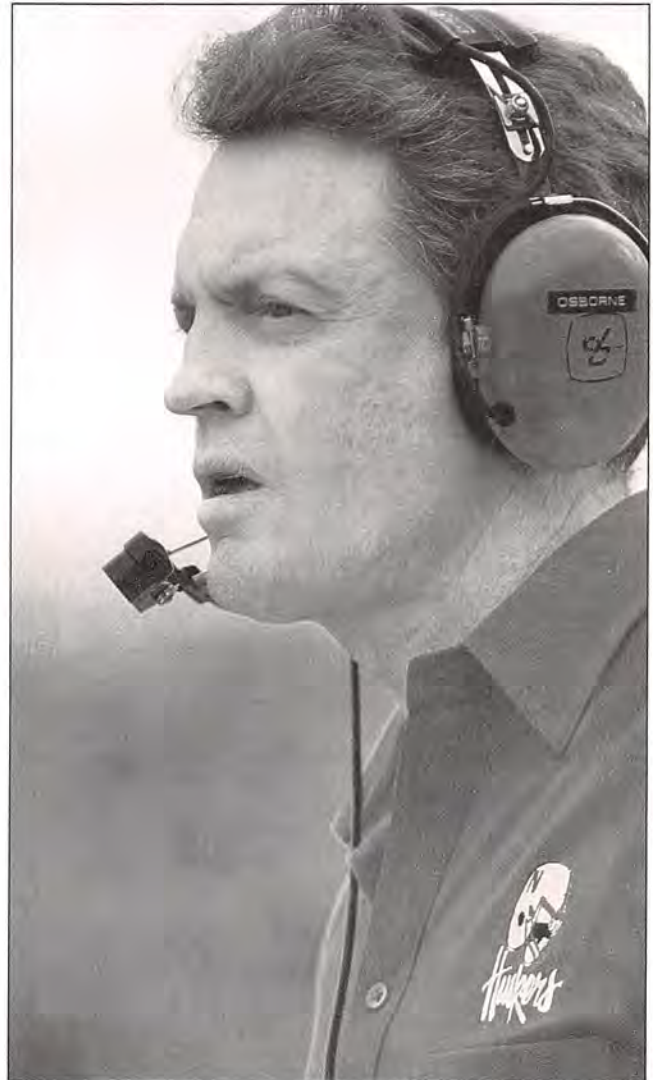
Nebraska continued its dominance in the series with the Cowboys, winning for the 26th time in 29 meetings.

OSU coach Pat Jones said before the game that his club needed positive things to happen early. "Obviously, it went just the other way," he said afterwards.

Griffin was glad the Huskers started the game with a 42-point explosion.

"If we didn't, it would have been a tight game," he said. "I'm glad we don't have to play them again." ■

Osborne ran his record against OSU to 15-0-1.



SEASON RECAP	8/27 A&M	9/3 USU	9/10 UCLA	9/24 ASU	10/1 UNLV	10/8 KU	10/15 OSU	10/22 KSU	10/29 MU	11/5 ISU	11/12 CU	11/9 OU	BOWL	SEASON AVERAGE
First Downs	19	34	21	29	26	38	28							28
Yards Rushing	201	421	260	441	444	547	570							412
Yards Passing	125	169	125	29	56	118	92							102
Fumbles - Lost	5-3	0-0	2-1	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0							2-1
Time of Possession	60%	54%	44%	57%	59%	54%	53%							55%
Third Down Conversions	50%	50%	46%	45%	56%	40%	58%							49%
Final Score	23-14	63-14	28-41	47-16	48-6	63-10	63-42							48-20

NOTES & QUOTES

Penalties marred the closing minutes of Saturday's OSU-NU football game.

Officials flagged the Cornhuskers five times in the fourth quarter for 40 yards, including four penalties and 35 yards during Oklahoma State's scoring drive midway through the period.

Nebraska players claimed the Aggies were talking. The Cowboys started onto the field when NU linebacker Broderick Thomas tackled Barry Sanders and pulled the OSU running back out of bounds near the Huskers' bench.

Nebraska received two personal foul penalties during that time.

"I didn't like at all the fact that there was so much talking and stuff toward the end of the ball game," NU coach Tom Osborne said. "Our guys are not supposed to get caught up in that and just walk away. That kind of discipline is not going to serve us well."

Thomas said emotions will run high when teams battle for the Big Eight Conference title.

The fact Nebraska jumped to a 42-0 lead may have contributed to the exchange of words, as did Oklahoma State's ability to move the football against the Black Shirts.

"They were mad because they were losing and we were mad because they were moving the ball," said NU defensive tackle Willie Griffin, who tried to play fight referee between his teammates and Aggie players.

Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State's star running back, rushed for 189 yards on 35 carries and gained the respect of the Black Shirts.

Sanders, who entered the NU game as the nation's leading rusher, proved hard to bring down.

Griffin said unless a defender puts his head on the correct side of Barry, wraps him up, and keeps driving through him, "you're not going to bring him down. He's probably the best back" NU has played against in 1988.

The Black Shirts left their mark on the

Cowboy running back.

"It wasn't like he went out and had a field day," Thomas said. "It's not like he's going home unbruised."

Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones: "We never did give ourselves a chance to get in the ball game and we got beat very soundly. It's the same thing UCLA did to them and the same thing we did to Texas A&M and that's a shame with this good of an offensive football team."

"At halftime, we told them just to take it one play at a time and don't try to go out there and get it all back at once. I don't think anybody gave up and threw the towel in. We moved the ball, but we just didn't play good enough defense to win the football game."

Ken Clark's 73-yard touchdown run in the first quarter was the longest run against OSU since 1980. Saturday marked the first time an Oklahoma State opponent scored more than 40 points since Nebraska scored a 48-10 victory in 1982. The last time the Cowboys al-

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lowed 60 or more points was 1980 when Oklahoma defeated OSU, 63-14. The most points given up by OSU was 75 to Oklahoma in 1904.

NU quarterback Steve Taylor continued his assault on the record book. With three rushing touchdowns and two scoring passes, he moved to first on the career total offense touchdowns and career touchdowns accounted for with 55. He climbed to a tie for sixth with Bobby Reynolds on the career TDs-scored list with 28. Taylor now rates 10th on the career scoring list (170 points) and 14th on the career rushing yards chart (1,868 yards).

Thomas also improved on the charts. The All-American linebacker became the 13th Cornhusker to reach the 200-tackle plateau and he now ranks 11th with 206. He leads Nebraska in 1988 with 62 total tackles.

Saturday's game marked the 159th consecutive sellout in Memorial Stadium, a continuing NCAA record. The victory moved Osborne's career mark to 153-35-2, second among active NCAA Division I-A coaches. He owns a 15-0-1 record against OSU.

The clash between Nebraska, ranked seventh nationally, and 10th-rated Oklahoma State attracted scouts from 10 bowl games. The Orange, Cotton, Fiesta, Hall of Fame, Shrine East-West, Holiday, Gator, Peach, Citrus and Sun Bowls were represented in Memorial Stadium's press box.

Oklahoma State entered Saturday's game as the nation's leader in turnover margins: 19 opponent turnovers to two by the Cowboys. OSU lost the ball three times against Nebraska (all interceptions) while the Huskers made one turnover (interception).

"Other than the one interception, Nebraska didn't fumble the ball and we couldn't do anything to make them," Jones said. "I have to give Nebraska credit for that."

Nebraska had possession of the football for just 4:13 the first quarter, but held a 35-0 lead after 15 minutes. The Cornhuskers' drives lasted 17 seconds, 40 seconds, 2:07, and 1:09. (They scored on an interception return as well.) Nebraska finished the game with a 31:53-28:07 edge in time of possession.

Although Nebraska (28) and Oklahoma State (27) had nearly an equal number of first downs, the method differed. The Huskers gained 22 first downs by rushing, five by passing, and one by penalty while the Cowboys earned 10 on the ground, 11 through the air, and six via penalty. NU was penalized nine times for 86 yards.

Nebraska's first third-down play of the game came with 13:19 remaining in the second quarter. The Huskers converted seven of 12 third-down plays and both fourth-down tries while OSU went four-for-12 on third-down conversions.

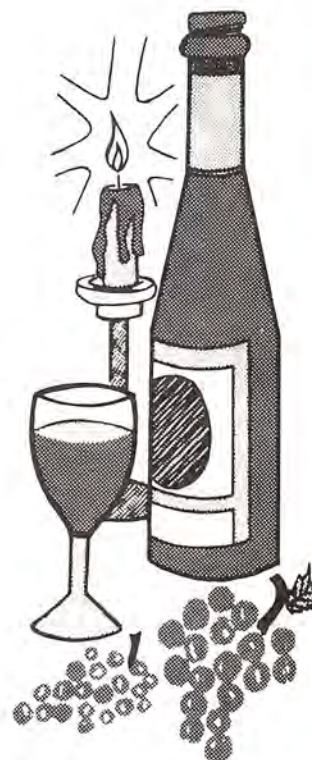
Nebraska's fast start was nothing short of spectacular. NU's first drive was 73 yards in one play, and the Huskers followed with scoring marches (not including Fryar's interception) that were 80 yards in three plays; 86 yards in five plays; 67 yards in three plays; and 68 yards in seven plays. So, the Huskers took their 42-0 lead by moving 374 yards in only 19 plays, an average of almost 20 yards per snap.

Fryar's interception, by the way, was described as follows by O-State's Dykes: "I was running an out pattern, but then I just broke off the route and went over the middle like I've done a hundred times before. Usually, Mike (Gundy) instinctively knows I'm going to do this. It usually works. But Nebraska was blitzing its strong safety (Reggie Cooper), and he must have gotten in Mike's face and screened out my new route. Anyway, Mike threw it exactly where I would have been if I hadn't broken off the route. Nine times out of 10, we'll connect on that pass."

Nebraska's Taylor was pleased with his team's offensive performance, but he still thinks there's room for improvement: "In the first half, we did a pretty good job of executing our plays, and the line blocked very well. But I feel we've still not seen our best. We've played consistently, we've also still made some fundamental mistakes. We've got plenty of room for improvement, which is a little unusual for Nebraska at midseason. If we keep our concentration up and eliminate little mistakes, I think we can reach our full potential."

On the cover: Linebacker LeRoy Etienne and the Huskers were sky-high against OSU. Photo by John Bills. ■

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Bell Gets Closer

Sooner or later, Richard Bell is going to score another touchdown. The junior wingback from Altadena, Calif., has one touchdown this season and two as a sophomore last fall.

But he'd like another.

He's come close the last two weeks.

Bell's best opportunity to get in the end zone during the Cornhuskers' 63-42 victory over Oklahoma State came just over five minutes into the game.

On a first-and-10 from the Cowboy 47-yard line, Bell ran 38 yards on a reverse before colliding with free safety Rod Smith and being knocked out of bounds. Almost. Just 9 more yards.

"I was running down the field and saw Morgan (Gregory) making a block. Morgan didn't cut him (the defender)," Bell said afterward. "Morgan was just about to cut him, and the guy ran

around him.

"I was thinking, 'Should I cut back, or should I try to get as many yards as I can?' I decided, 'Hey, I'm going to take him on.' He was a huge guy, too. And I thought, 'Is this the best decision, Rich?' But I took him on and just tried to knock his head off.

"He was bigger than I was."

Though Bell didn't have the satisfaction of crossing the goal line and Smith's head remained attached to his body, the play set up Nebraska's third touchdown of the quarter. On the next play, I-back Ken Clark took a pitchout and covered the final 9 yards.

Bell more than doubled his rushing yardage for the season with the carry. Going into the Oklahoma State game, he had carried six times for 24 yards.

It would have been nice to double his

touchdown production, too.

A week ago, in the Cornhuskers' 63-10 victory over Kansas, Bell scored a touchdown on a 55-yard punt return, only to see it nullified because Reggie Cooper drew a 5-yard penalty when he inadvertently ran into the punter.

Bell really wanted that touchdown, particularly after Gregory scored on a 64-yard punt return earlier.

The friends have an on-going, personal competition in such matters.

And if you ask Bell, they battled to a draw in the Kansas game.

"As far as I'm concerned, I scored," Bell said. "Everybody saw what happened. But it won't be written down in the books. I thought I had it."

He would have credited Gregory with an assist, of course, if the play had stood. On the punt Bell returned,



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Gregory was the deep back and as such, had the option of calling for the ball or letting Bell take it.

Gregory deferred to Bell.

"Morgan called for me because he already had a punt return (for a touchdown)," said Bell. "He said if it was anywhere close, he'd call for me. I was the guy on that one. It was a left return, and I was determined.

"I saw the blocks. I saw a hole and two guys to beat, and I was going to do something to get by them. I hit the crease and there it was, just like in practice. Then I turned around."

Penalty flag. Kansas punted again.

Eight plays later, on a second-and-14 from the Kansas 10-yard line, Bell nearly scored on a reverse but was knocked out of bounds inside the 1-yard line by Jayhawk cornerback Rod Harris.

"The guy got pretty low on me," said Bell. "He held his ground a little bit. I ran him over, but the momentum car-

ried us out of bounds."

He might have been talking about the Oklahoma State reverse, the plays were so similar.

Even though he's scored only one touchdown this season, Bell has contributed to Nebraska's success in a variety of ways, some of which can't be

"We've got a good team, and we knew we could score on them," said Bell.

judged statistically. He blocks downfield, returns kicks, and catches passes, seven for 129 yards and his only touchdown to date.

None of the Cornhuskers enjoyed the victory over Oklahoma State more than Bell. The stunning 35-point first quart-

er against the Cowboys, combined with last week's 28-point first quarter at Kansas, has eased his mind about Nebraska's propensity to slow starts.

"At the end of the first quarter, I was thinking, 'Hey, this might end up being 70-0,'" said Bell.

Throughout the week leading up to the Oklahoma State game, the focus was on the Cowboys' potent offense, built around tailback Barry Sanders.

"I read all the hype and wondered, 'What are we? We're good, too,'" Bell said. "But every time I opened the newspaper, it was Oklahoma State this and Oklahoma State that.

"Whenever I'd read a statement about them, I'd think, 'What about us?' We needed to bring it (attention) back to our offense. This is where it's at. We've got a good team, and we knew we could score on them."

That's what the Cornhuskers did. And Bell would have liked to get into the act. ■

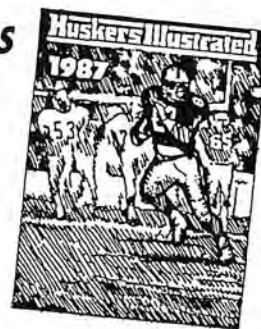
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More Than Luck

Dumb luck. Sometimes, that's the only explanation, Tom Osborne said early in the week leading up to the Oklahoma State game.

Osborne was responding, for at least the 100th time, to the question that comes up each season before the Cornhuskers play Oklahoma State.

How can one team dominate another the way Nebraska has in a series that began with back-to-back Cowboy victories in 1960 and 1961?

The Cornhuskers haven't lost since then, in case you've been out of state for the last week or so and haven't had the opportunity to read the seemingly endless string of stories about that fact. Pat Jones, Oklahoma State's gregarious head coach, said he was thinking of presenting an originality-in-journalism award to the first writer who made it through the entire week leading up to

the game without mentioning how old someone was when the "Big Red Jinx" began.

In case you somehow missed that, too, Jones was only 14 years old the last time the Cowboys, coached by Cliff Speegle, defeated Nebraska, which would fire Coach Bill Jennings at season's end, though not necessarily because of that particular loss. Osborne was in graduate school at the time.

The score in Stillwater was 14-6.

The previous season, in the first game of the series, Oklahoma State prevailed in Lincoln, 7-6.

With the arrival of Bob Devaney in 1962, Nebraska's string of victories began — 14-0 in Stillwater.

The best the Cowboys have done since was 17-17 in 1973, Osborne's first season as head coach.

"I think a lot of it is just plain, dumb

luck," Osborne said during his weekly news conference on Tuesday. "We've had a lot of games that could have gone the other way. It's a lot like what we face with Oklahoma year after year. It's hard to explain.

"It seems like the bounces have just gone our way more often than not against Oklahoma State.

"How can you account for that?"

You can't, of course. But bounces and luck aren't the only reasons Nebraska has dominated the series with Oklahoma State. Check those 26 seasons, and you'll find the Cowboys have defeated archrival Oklahoma only three times during that stretch.

Therein lies the real explanation. Oklahoma State just hasn't been as good as Nebraska or Oklahoma. Dumb luck may have prevented the Cowboys from beating Nebraska once or twice in the last 26 years, the way they've managed to beat Oklahoma. But a couple of victories, even one every five or six years, wouldn't lessen the dominance.

Really, that's the point here.

Oklahoma State's series with Nebraska and Oklahoma are hard evidence that the Big Eight has been essentially a two-team conference in football for the better part of the last quarter of a century. And if those series aren't convincing enough, check the Associated Press final Top 10 rankings for the last 25 years. How many Big Eight teams other than Nebraska and Oklahoma have been in there?

Missouri made it in 1965 (6th), 1968 (9th) and 1969 (6th). Kansas finished 7th in 1968. And Colorado was third, behind Nebraska and Oklahoma, in an unprecedented finish by one conference, at the end of the 1971 season.

Since then, 16 years, Oklahoma State is the only other Big Eight program good enough to finish in the nation's final Top 10. Jones' first Cowboy team, in 1984, went 10-2, including a 21-14 victory over South Carolina in the Gator Bowl, and finished 7th in the AP rankings. The Cowboys' only losses, of course, were to Nebraska in Lincoln



Of course, Nebraska has enjoyed good fortune against OSU, but Ken Clark's performance was more skill than luck.

(17-3) and Oklahoma in Norman (24-14).

Last year, you'll recall, Oklahoma State also finished with a 10-2 record, including a victory over West Virginia in the Sun Bowl. Again, the Cowboy losses were to Nebraska and Oklahoma.

All of which brings us to 1988.

If Oklahoma State was ever to make a move on its two Big Eight nemeses, this season was going to be the one. Jones had put together an offense that had conference observers talking about Nebraska's 1983 "Scoring Explosion" backfield of running back Mike Rozier, wide receiver Irving Fryar and quarterback Turner Gill.

The Cowboys' version of the "Triplets" included tailback Barry Sanders, split end Hart Lee Dykes and quarterback Mike Gundy. With an attack based on those three, Oklahoma State rolled past its first four opponents: 52-20 over Miami of Ohio; 52-15 over a Texas A&M team Nebraska defeated only 23-14 in the Kickoff Classic; 56-35 over Tulsa; and 41-21 over Colorado.

Offensively, at least, these guys were for real, which makes what Nebraska did to them all the more unreal.

While he watched the Cornhuskers jump out to a 35-0 lead in the first quarter and a 42-0 advantage before his team finally got on the scoreboard at Memorial Stadium, Jones must have wondered if there really is a jinx.

Dumb luck hardly explains it.

Is Oklahoma State ready to join Nebraska and Oklahoma to make the conference the Big Three and the Little Five? Not based on what happened in Lincoln last Saturday afternoon.

The Cowboy offense should have earned Nebraska's respect. It was as good as advertised, and it might be good enough to beat Oklahoma when those teams play in Stillwater on Nov. 5.

Oklahoma State's loss to Nebraska doesn't eliminate the Cowboys from Orange Bowl consideration. But they'll need some help from someone.

And if Oklahoma State doesn't get that help and can't salvage at least a share of the conference title, it might be a while before the Cowboys are in a position to do so. By the end of this month, they're expected to find out if the NCAA is going to penalize them for a series of

With Barry Sanders returning in 1989, the Pokes should be tough again.



alleged infractions, and if so, how severe those penalties will be.

Some of the infractions of which Oklahoma State has been accused involve Dykes, who, according to *Sports Illustrated's* Rick Reilly, may "turn out to be the first player in history to help put three schools on probation. Illinois is serving a sentence already, and word has it that the NCAA is getting ready to book the (Oklahoma) Sooners and the Cowboys, too."

If the NCAA does impose sanctions on Oklahoma State, the Cowboys' climb to the top of the heap in the Big Eight, probably will turn into a tumble.

A similar thing occurred under former coach Jim Stanley, who directed the Cowboys to a 9-3 record in 1976, including their most recent victory over Oklahoma (31-24 in Norman) and a 49-21 victory over Brigham Young in the Tangerine Bowl. The next two seasons, Oklahoma State, troubled by an NCAA investigation, went 4-7 and 3-8.

In 1979, Jimmy Johnson replaced Stanley as head coach, and the battle for conference respectability began anew.

Johnson's first Cowboy team went 7-4, losing only twice in Big Eight

play...you guessed it, to Nebraska (36-0) and Oklahoma (38-7).

Johnson had to leave for Miami before he could beat the Sooners.

Maybe that's the answer.

Parity in the Big Eight?

Oklahoma State may have solidified its position as a perennial first-division finisher when it defeated Colorado. The Buffaloes, after all, managed to beat Nebraska the year before last. They're apparently capable of challenging the Cornhuskers and, maybe, Oklahoma, on a fairly regular basis.

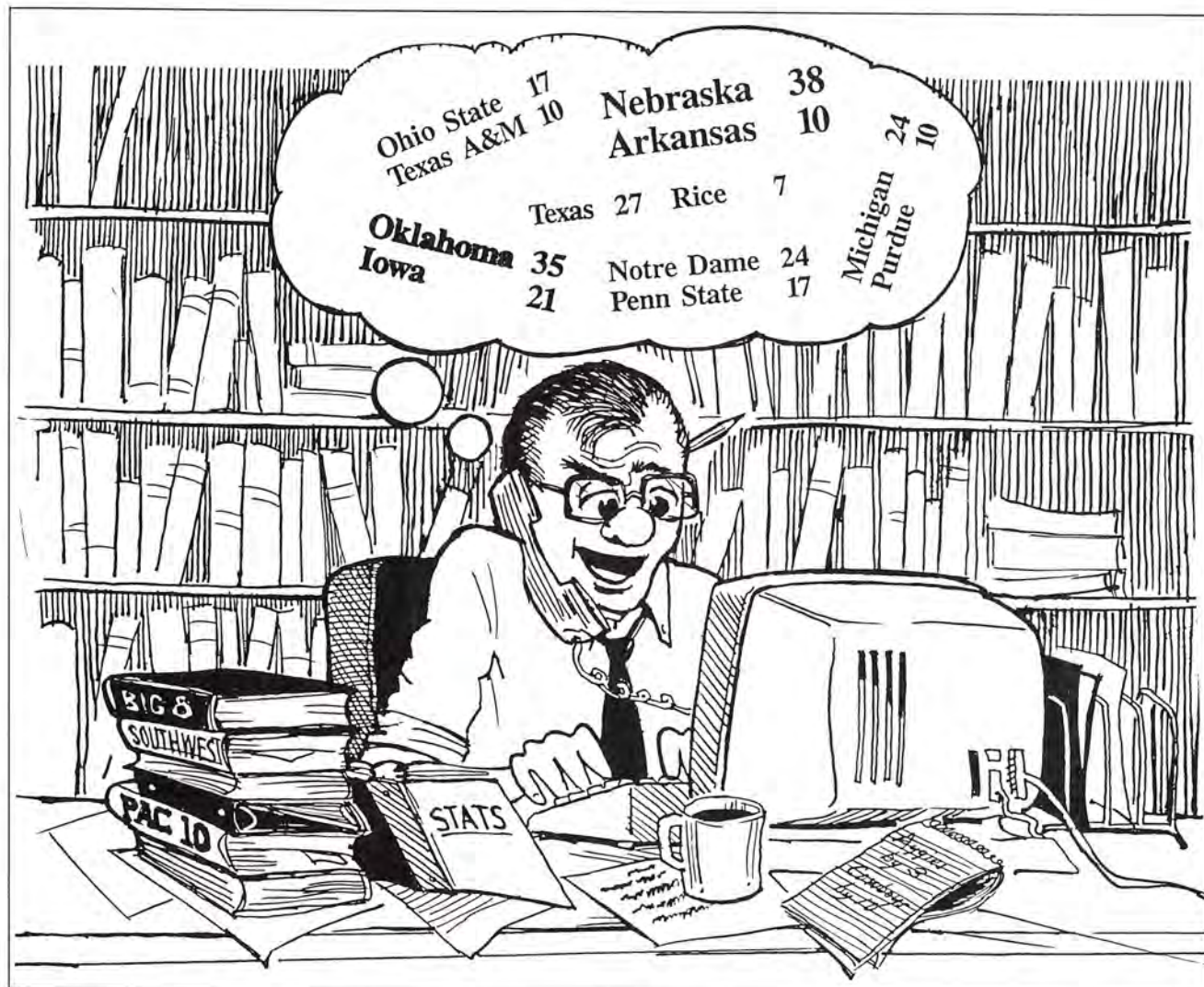
But it still appears the conference has three distinct levels. At the top are Nebraska and Oklahoma. The second level includes Oklahoma State and Colorado. And the other four teams comprise the third level.

Despite all the build-up and the concern of those Nebraska fans who thought, "Eventually, Oklahoma State will win, and maybe this is it," Saturday's game was business as usual in the NU-OSU series. The score was unusual, but not the outcome.

"It'll be something when we win in this series," Jones said before the game. He was right about that. ■

HUSKERS PREVIEWED

Predictions



Same Song, Same Verse

Tom Vint, Associated Press, Omaha, Neb.: "I think it will be a good chance to get some playing time for the second- and third-string players. Realistically, that's the best way for the Huskers to look at that game. They could use the time to heal some bumps and bruises and sharpen things up a little, timing wise. At this stretch of the season, the Huskers could use a boost of confidence and Kansas State sure could do that to them. It's one of those games you can name the score. They'll **duplicate the Kansas score.**"

John Martinez, North Platte Tele-

graph, North Platte, Neb.: "It shouldn't be much of a contest. If Nebraska gets a good start like they did Saturday, it won't be. We're due for a **shutout, 55-0.** It'll give the (young Huskers) a chance to gain some experience. They need an easy game after this. It's good to play a Kansas State after you play Colorado or Oklahoma State. There's always a little letdown."

Brent Robinson, Kearney Hub, Kearney, Neb.: "I really think this year's Nebraska team is unpredictable. I think that's something a lot of people are feeling this year. If there's one game where

Nebraska will be predictable, it's a game like Kansas State. The biggest thing in that game is to try and keep improving. I really don't think Nebraska will try and embarrass anybody. It will be a typical Nebraska-Kansas State game. **Nebraska 49, Kansas State 6."**

Kim Heusel, Fremont Tribune, Fremont, Neb.: "How do Nebraska and Kansas State compare? They don't. Nebraska easily is bigger, stronger, faster...you name it. Nebraska is better. **Nebraska 49, Kansas State 3."**

Mike Kluck, Daily Nebraskan, Lincoln, Neb.: "Nebraska fans who made

the trip to Lawrence to see the Cornhuskers' 63-10 shelling of the Jayhawks won't need to make the venture into the Sunflower State again. This week's game against Kansas State should prove to have a similar or even worse outcome for Nebraska's opponent. The Wildcats spent last Saturday giving up 35 first-quarter points to Oklahoma, while the Huskers scored 35 against Oklahoma State in tuning up its offense.

"Kansas State might as well spend the day preparing for its only hope for victory — a November 5 showdown with Kansas — because this one won't even be close. **Nebraska 70, K-State 6.**"

Brad Stauffer, WIBW-TV, Topeka, Kan.: "The main thing K-State will probably be looking at is to go in there and try not to get hurt too badly.

"They're in the middle of a horrendous three-game attack. They got annihilated by Oklahoma last week, now Nebraska and then they face Oklahoma State the following week. I don't know if any team in the nation has to face anything like that — certainly not in this conference. They'll probably be hoping to get through these games and still have a team left.

"I think K-State will score. They have shown some offense this year and some of it will be dictated by whether or not their freshman quarterback, Paul Watson, will play. He has a rifle arm and has a good receiver in Greg Washing-

ton, who is one of the leaders in the Big Eight. If those two are healthy, they're going to get some points. I'll say **Nebraska will win in the neighborhood of 60-14.**"

Greg Couch, Wichita Eagle-Beacon, Wichita, Kan.: "I think going into it, Kansas State doesn't have much of a chance of winning. Coach (Stan) Parrish is already talking about small victories, so I guess he'll be hoping to score some points and see how the offensive line will do. They need to keep the quarterback from getting killed. That's about all they can hope for.

"Paul Watson is capable of throwing for 250 yards against anybody. He might not be effective enough to beat Nebraska. But the fact that they'll have him starting for four years is something they should feel good about. I'll say **Nebraska will win, 59-17.**"

Steve Dennis, KSNW-TV, Wichita, Kan.: "Nebraska will be up 48-0 at the half. Kansas State will get killed and it won't be much of a ball game. But they will score some points."

Dave Sharp, KTKA-TV, Topeka, Kan.: "Kansas State is in such a bad situation right now, where just about anything good happening to their program is highlighted by their people; and, good would mean a very big crowd for Nebraska-Kansas State. It doesn't matter whether they're wearing red or purple.

"Kansas State's football program is probably in the worst shape it's ever been in. Most people seem to think Stan Parrish did not handle his resignation in the best way, preferring he had waited until the end of the season.

"The only chance Kansas State has of moving the ball against Nebraska is to pass. Not many teams can run against Nebraska. K-State does not use the tight end as much as I think they should. Occasionally, they have been throwing to their backs, like Antoine Dulan, from this area. He has a lot of potential. They throw to (Greg) Washington a lot, who has some speed. With Paul Watson, there is someone to build around. Against Nebraska, if Watson plays, he'll have to go the short routes because he won't have much time. I think **Nebraska will win, 63-10.**"

Huskers Illustrated: "Another year, another Kansas State slaughter. You'd think, wouldn't you, they could just pull out game film from last year and show that to the few fans who'll show up — give both teams a week off. But for posterity and the record books, get ready for another long Saturday in Manhattan. Here's hoping 1989 will be the season the Wildcats get a coach who'll stick around long enough to turn the program around and bring Manhattan out of the depths of college football depression. **Nebraska 71, Kansas State 21.**" ■



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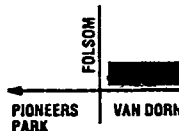
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Kansas State Wildcats

To say the Kansas State football program has had its difficulties this year is a severe understatement. Not only do the Wildcats own a 21-game winless streak, but two weeks ago Head Coach Stan Parrish announced his resignation, effective at the end of this season. Needless to say, team morale is taking a serious beating. And so it goes.

KSU opened the season against T. J. Rubley and the Tulsa Golden Hurricane in Dave Rader's debut as TU head coach. Rubley threw for 284 yards, giving the Wildcats an indication of what was to come.

The following week, K-State trailed struggling Iowa only 17-10 at halftime before falling to the Hawkeyes, 45-10. The KSU offense penetrated the Iowa 20-yard line five different times in the second half, but failed to score at all.

Tulane used an eight-play, 77-yard drive, scoring in the final 14 seconds to hand the Wildcats their third loss of the season, 20-16.

But the most disheartening loss this year came at the hands of Louisiana Tech as Kansas State watched a 28-7 halftime



Coach Stan Parrish

lead dissolve into a 31-28 loss. The game marked the debut of heralded KSU freshman quarterback Paul Watson, who lived up to his billing by completing 43 percent of his passes for 362 yards. On KSU's first offensive play of the game, Watson hit wide receiver David Brooks on an 80-yard TD pass, but Brooks later left the game with torn knee ligaments and was lost for the season.

The following week, Missouri crushed the Wildcats, 52-21.

Watson and Straw give the 'Cats a fairly strong one-two punch at the QB spot, but only a limited offensive cast surrounding them. Wide receiver Greg Washington has snared 28 passes for 368 yards and four touchdowns and will have to take up the slack at that position with Brooks gone. Mark Austin complements Washington at wide receiver. Fullback Lee Pickett has rushed for 288 yards and is K-State's leading ground gainer.

The Wildcats' greatest vulnerability is the defense which is allowing over 450 yards per game, and yielded 592 against a struggling Missouri team.

Strengths: Quarterbacks Watson and Straw are capable of posting some big numbers passing.

Weaknesses: The defense is allowing opponents to move the ball almost at will.

Statistically Speaking: KSU surrendered 38 first downs to the Sooners, but generated over 400 yards in total offense, losing 70-24, last week. ■

The Report Card

NU	POS.	KSU
A	QB	B-
B+	RB	C-
A-	OL	C-
B+	E	C+
B	DL	D
A	LB	C+
B+	DB	C-
B+	K	B-

Nebraska vs. Kansas State

When: 1:30 p.m. (Central), Saturday, Oct. 22.

Where: KSU Stadium, Manhattan, Kan.

Media Coverage: Husker Football Network.

Wildcat Facts: Coach — Stan Parrish (Heidelberg '68) is in his third year at KSU with a record of 2-25-1, and 57-36-3, overall. School Colors — Purple and White. Nickname — Wildcats. Enrollment — 18,120. Conference — Big Eight. Basic Offense — Multiple. Basic Defense — 50.

The Series: Nebraska leads 60-10-2 in one of the most uneven series in the Big Eight Conference. The Cornhuskers won, 56-3, last year. Kansas State has not defeated Nebraska since 1968, when the

Wildcats shut out the Cornhuskers, 12-0, in Lincoln. The series began in 1911, when the Cornhuskers demolished the Wildcats, 59-0, in Lincoln in what remains the largest margin of victory in the series. NU's current 19-game winning streak is the longest in the series by both teams.

Bill Jennings defeated K-State in 1957, 14-7, his first game at Nebraska and the Huskers' lone victory that season. NU's 62-14 decision in '84 marked the most points a Husker team has ever scored against KSU. A year later Nebraska's 41-3 win marked the 600th victory for Nebraska. Kansas and K-State are the only Big Eight teams who have never beaten Tom Osborne since he took over in 1973.

COACH'S EVALUATION

Tom Osborne

Huskers Happy But Hurt

"That was kind of a hard one to figure. I don't know quite how to approach it, even. We obviously thought their offense was the strongest part of their football team. We thought we could move the ball and score some points. And we felt we would have to. I had no idea we'd have to score that many. I was very surprised with the number of big plays early.

"But if we're going to have any chance to win the Big Eight championship, we're going to have to stop people better than we did today.

"The kicking game was pretty good. I think we might have come out a little bit ahead.

"I didn't like at all the fact there was some talking and some stuff going on there toward the end of the ball game. I don't care about the other guys, but our people aren't supposed to get caught up in that. They're supposed to walk away. We got some penalties — standing on the sideline, maybe we shouldn't have gotten all of them that we did — but we got a bunch, and it hurt us.

"Kenny Clark showed great balance. He showed signs of being the kind of running back we thought he could be.

"The second half, we got slowed down some. Partly, Oklahoma State did a good job, and partly, we just didn't have any offensive linemen left. Doug Glaser got hurt in the second quarter and couldn't play any more. John Nelson was hurt and couldn't play. Andy Keeler couldn't play in the second half. And Jake Young was shot by the end of three quarters. So we hardly had anybody in the offensive line left in the fourth quarter. We were playing with seconds, and sometimes thirds, almost all the way across the offensive line.

"We still did okay. But it hampered our effectiveness to get big plays. We could get 5 yards, but not 30 or 40.

"(Todd) Millikan was hurt. He's got a bruised kidney. And I just don't know how many guys are going to be able to play this week against Kansas State.

"Some of those injuries may be superficial and they'll be able to come back. On the other hand, it looks like right now we're going to have a lot of

guys missing, particularly on offense. The offensive line is a major worry we have right now.

"We lacked a lot of continuity in the offensive line going into this game, and it's going to be even worse now.

"I have a lot of respect for Pat Jones and his team. They played hard. They're good people. We always enjoy playing

them. It was a hard game to figure. We audibled quite a bit today. The quarterback did a good job. We maybe audibled 20 to 30 percent.

"And then I think we guessed right a lot, too, on the plays we called. But we've still got to execute 'em. There were a few times when they stunted or blitzed or put something into a play.

"We sure reversed things. Normally, we play bad early and good late; this game we did it the other way around." ■

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19 Morgan Gregory	6-0	185	jr.
	22 Nate Turner	6-1	220	fr.
LT	62 Bob Sledge	6-2	270	sr.
	78 Tom Punt	6-8	270	so.
LG	65 Andy Keeler	6-3	265	sr.
	53 Mark Antonietti	6-2	265	sr.
C	68 Jake Young	6-5	260	jr.
	59 Jeff Anderson	6-4	270	jr.
RG	76 John Nelson	6-1	260	jr.
	69 Bill Bobbora	6-3	260	jr.
RT	70 Doug Glaser	6-7	295	jr.
	77 Terry Eymann	6-6	265	so.
TE	43 Todd Millikan	6-3	245	sr.
	85 Monte Kratzstein	6-4	225	jr.
QB	9 Steve Taylor	6-0	205	sr.
	14 Gerry Gdowski	6-1	195	jr.
FB	29 Bryan Carpenter	5-10	200	jr.
	18 Lance Lewis	6-0	200	fr.
IB	32 Ken Clark	5-9	200	jr.
	34 Tyreese Knox	5-10	215	sr.
WB	33 Dana Brinson	5-9	170	sr.
	21 Richard Bell	6-0	195	jr.
PK	16 Chris Drennan	5-9	180	jr.
	44 Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	so.

DEFENSE

OLB	89 Broderick Thomas	6-3	235	sr.
	93 Jon Marco	6-1	220	sr.
LT	84 Willie Griffin	6-3	275	sr.
	56 Joe Sims	6-4	265	so.
MG	96 Lawrence Pete	6-1	270	sr.
	74 Mike Murray	5-10	240	jr.
RT	95 Paul Brungardt	6-7	255	so.
	91 Kent Wells	6-5	285	jr.
OLB	42 Jeff Mills	6-3	220	jr.
	88 Mike Croel	6-3	215	so.
SLB	55 Randall Jobman	6-3	230	jr.
	47 LeRoy Etienne	6-1	230	jr.
WLB	40 Pat Tyrance	6-2	230	so.
	49 Chris Caliendo	6-3	240	jr.
LCB	8 Lorenzo Hicks	6-0	195	sr.
	28 John Custard	5-9	165	sr.
RCB	10 Charles Fryar	5-10	175	sr.
	5 Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	so.
SS	17 Reggie Cooper	6-3	200	so.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
S	4 Tim Jackson	6-0	190	sr.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
P	46 John Kroeker	5-11	175	sr.
	48 Scott Beckler	6-0	185	so.

WILDCAT 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

WR	83 Frank Hernandez	5-11	180	fr.
	8 Mark Austin	5-9	170	sr.
OT	64 Russ Stange	6-7	265	sr.
	79 Doug Warren	6-5	265	fr.
OG	70 Chad Faulkner	6-2	270	jr.
	62 Shawn Fleming	6-4	260	so.
C	68 Paul Yniguez	6-3	275	jr.
	70 Chad Falkner	6-2	270	jr.
OG	76 Eric Zabelin	6-2	280	jr.
	52 Bob Pacchioli	6-2	270	so.
OT	67 Will McCain	6-4	275	jr.
	65 Rick Mears	6-5	265	so.
TE	84 Alan Friedrich	6-4	230	jr.
	90 Al Jones	6-3	220	fr.
QB	14 Paul Watson	6-2	190	fr.
	10 Carl Straw	6-1	215	so.
FB	30 Lee Pickett	5-11	240	sr.
	40 Curtis Madden	6-0	265	fr.
TB	22 Antonio Dulan	6-1	175	so.
	38 Sonny Ray Jones	5-11	195	fr.
WR	82 Greg Washington	5-10	150	jr.
	8 Mark Austin	5-9	170	sr.
PK	1 Mark Porter	6-0	185	sr.
	17 David Kruger	5-11	185	jr.

DEFENSE

DE	36 James Enin-Okut	6-0	220	so.
	39 Elijah Alexander	6-2	210	fr.
DT	78 Jim Oehm	6-3	240	jr.
	81 John Crawford	6-2	250	jr.
NG	56 Rob Goode	6-1	235	sr.
	51 Bobby Lawrence	6-3	245	so.
DT	54 Alan Smith	6-3	230	sr.
	98 Doug Blackburne	6-4	250	sr.
DE	21 Danny Needham	6-0	205	so.
	23 Robert Easterwood	6-3	185	sr.
MLB	49 Lorne Whittle	6-2	200	so.
	53 Vantz Singletary	5-11	225	sr.
ILB	6 Erick Harper	6-1	215	jr.
	4 Jeff Allison	6-2	190	fr.
ILB	28 Maurice Henry	6-0	220	jr.
	42 Scott Zele	6-0	205	fr.
LC	7 Tyreese Herds	5-11	200	jr.
	20 Dimitrie Scott	5-10	170	jr.
FS	16 Marcus Miller	5-11	175	jr.
	31 William Price	6-0	190	fr.
RC	18 Emmett Bradford	5-9	180	sr.
	33 Rogerick Green	5-11	165	fr.
P	2 Shane Pouch	5-11	190	sr.
	13 George Matsakis	5-10	180	fr.

Former Nebraska All-American Tom Novak was on hand at the first Nebraska-Oklahoma showdown of the season. "Trainwreck" Novak took part in the promotion that was not the Nebraska-Oklahoma annual shootout, but the showdown between the best Nebraska-bred thoroughbreds against the best from Oklahoma.

Former Nebraska All-Big Eight quarterback Vince Ferragamo visited Lincoln for the first time in recent years when he watched the Nebraska-Oklahoma State game and then played in the Tom Osborne Celebrity Senior Golf tournament in Omaha. Ferragamo is in real estate in southern California and is rumored to be pursuing a career in acting.

Tom Osborne was joking when he talked about Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones. "Pat's not married. He must have a lot of time to watch the films. Maybe that's one of the reasons Oklahoma State has gotten so much better over the years."

Senior inside linebacker LeRoy Etienne is back at the starting position on the strong side after sitting out a week and sliding to the No. 2 spot. "I guess I was just trying to make everything happen," Etienne said. "Just over-aggressive — that's the only way I can describe it. But it's changed now. I'm just thinking about my responsibilities and not trying to take the load on my back. When I tried to make the big plays, that's when I got in trouble." Osborne said it is important to Nebraska's success as a team for Etienne and the rest of the inside linebackers to play with more consistency.

Junior quarterback Gerry Gdowski has apparently won the battle for the No. 2 spot, edging out freshman Mickey Joseph at the start of the Big Eight season.

Nebraska middle guard Lawrence Pete and Oklahoma State running back phenom Barry Sanders played midget league football on the same team in Wichita. "He was always quiet. Short, and muscular big legs," Pete said of Sanders.

Offensive tackle Steve Engstrom has leaped up the depth chart because of injuries to Doug Glaser and Terry Eyman. Engstrom, a sophomore from Lincoln



Tom Osborne

Pius X, said he appreciates the added responsibility, but understands the task asked of him. "For a sophomore to be playing with the No. 1s on the offensive line is something you never think about, because you set your mind to accept you probably won't play much until you're a junior or senior."

Engstrom, a 6-foot-2, 285-pound swing tackle, has put on 20 pounds since he came to Nebraska three years ago.

Freshman Steve Carmer of Wahoo has been practicing with the varsity since the recurring injury to senior Mark Blazek keeps him from practicing every other day. Carmer, a safety with the freshman team, was outstanding in the game with the Air Force junior varsity and may see some playing time with the varsity.

Osborne said strong safety Reggie Cooper, a sophomore from Slidell, La., could become one of the best strong safeties in Nebraska's history. "And he's not far from it right now," Osborne said. Cooper said he appreciated the confidence from the coaching staff. "I've come a long way, but I've got such a long way to go before I'll be satisfied.

"The same goes for the team. We're looking for that game where the offensive coaches and the defensive coaches

are both satisfied. We're still looking for that game."

NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said he was impressed with the speed of his defense. "I'd say the big difference in our defense, besides the losses at defensive line (Neil Smith, Tim Rother and Lee Jones), is our speed. We're physically bigger than last year with Willie Griffin, Paul Brungardt and Lawrence Pete in there.

"But defensively we're just not as good as I thought we'd be, but part of that is who we've played," he said. "It's hard to play the Kansas and UNLV games with complete intensity. We were not sky high for those games."

A correction on a previous note in "Confidentially," is due. NU offensive line Coach Milt Tenopir's wife's first name is Terri.

Fullbacks Lance Lewis and starter Bryan Carpenter got together with family and friends after Nebraska's victory at Kansas. Lewis, from Scott City, Kan., and Carpenter from Olathe, Kan., both said they felt they made the right choice in picking Nebraska over Kansas. "I grew up near here and I have a lot of family around here (Lawrence, Kan.), but I'm happy with my choice of Nebraska," Carpenter said. ■

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Top Gun

THE HUSKER JVs TOOK REVENGE ON AIR FORCE IN WHAT HAS BECOME A FIERCE RIVALRY.

The Nebraska freshman-junior varsity football team was held to less than one half of its usual production, but it didn't seem to matter.

The competition did, and that's why the NU freshmen were thrilled with a 35-16 victory over Air Force Junior Varsity recently at Nebraska's Memorial Stadium.

After blowing out St. Thomas, Minn., 86-3 and Bethany, Kan., 68-0, the junior Cornhuskers faced their first real test of the season with Air Force — a team that had never lost to Nebraska.

"Now, maybe people will think we have a real team," NU quarterback Mike Grant said. "We're not just beating high school teams out there. We've seen a good team out there and we earned their respect."

Air Force coach Maj. Billy Mitchell said he respected the Cornhuskers.

"Nebraska is big, has physical strength and they are very, very quick," he said.

That speed was evident early in the game when Tyrone Legette, a Nebraska scholarship recruit from Columbia,

S.C., broke around the left side on a 94-yard kickoff return for a touchdown just after Air Force counted on a 41-yard field goal.

Nebraska never lost the lead.

After Grant lost a fumble on Nebraska's second possession of the game, he hit walk-on receiver Brad Hays of Elkhorn on a 38-yard pass to the Air Force 2-yard line. One play later, Grant scored on a quarterback sneak to give Nebraska a 14-3 lead.

Nebraska I-back Scott Baldwin of Roselle, N.J., wasn't about to be upstaged by Grant, though as he tacked on a 63-yard touchdown run late in the second quarter to give NU a 21-3 lead.

Nebraska's defense shut down the Falcons, allowing just 23 yards of total offense in the second quarter as safety Steve Carmer, defensive tackle Jamie Liewer, nose guard Matt Hilman and outside linebacker Mike Petko each tagged the Air Force with tackles for losses.

"We felt like this was our first chance to prove ourselves on defense and we didn't want to give up anything," said Carmer, a scholarship recruit from Wa-



hoo. "We were on their wishbone option pretty good and we got a lot of pressure on them."

But the Nebraska defense was thrown for a scare early in the second half when the Falcons rebounded with a 64-yard touchdown run by quarterback Ronald Gray and a 30-yard touchdown from Gray to Jason Crandall that closed the score to 21-16 with less than five minutes gone in the second half.



"The coaches warned us that Air Force could come right back," Carmer said. "And we made some wrong calls and didn't make the plays and they did come back."

But that was the last time the Falcons threatened the unbeaten Cornhuskers.

Despite stalling on the Air Force 12 on a lost fumble late in the third quarter, Nebraska rallied on a 40-yard touchdown pass from Grant to Hays and seven

Mike Grant accounted for two TDs and 169 yards in total offense.



minutes later, Baldwin scored his second touchdown of the game on a 6-yard run that capped an 88-yard scoring drive.

Grant, a scholarship recruit from Brandon, Fla., ignited the drive with a blazing 72-yard run to the Air Force 6-yard line.

Scott Baldwin hurt Air Force with a 63-yard touchdown run.

Although he finished with 122 yards gained and a net of 83 yards rushing, along with 86 yards passing (running for his third touchdown and passing for his sixth touchdown of the season), Grant was still searching for satisfaction.

"I won't be happy until I have a perfect game and I don't think that'll ever

happen," he said. "I had some awful footwork and got tripped up a couple of times."

He praised a key block by tackle Chris Ybarra for springing the 72-yard run and he said that Hays was the key to the success of the passing game.

"We made some mental mistakes against their blitzing, but once I got enough time to call the audibles we had some good plays," he said.

The 63-yard touchdown run by Baldwin and the 40-yard touchdown pass to Hays were both audibles.

"Both of those plays were a matter of taking advantage of what was open at the

It was possibly as intense a game as the Huskers have faced, including the game with the redshirts. "This was all-out war," Petko said. "Everybody was hitting hard. That's the way we like it."

time," Grant said.

NU freshman coach Shane Thorell said he was impressed with his quarterback.

"Mike did an especially good job on the audibles and it helped us adjust to their (Air Force) pressure," he said. "Grant was very level-headed considering the difference between this competition and the teams we played the first two games of the season."

Thorell also cited the running of Baldwin, who finished the game with 134 yards on 24 carries. "We decided to try and wear him out and he really responded to the job," Thorell said.

The Nebraska defense also played a major role in stopping the two-game losing streak against Air Force.

The Falcons were limited to 241 yards of total offense compared to 382 for the Cornhuskers.

"I thought we played well on defense except for the first five minutes of the second half," Thorell said. Air Force got almost half of its yards during the first five minutes of the third quarter.

"We played the base defense against the wishbone and it worked except for two long plays," Thorell said. "Considering they started 14 sophomores and two juniors, I was very pleased with the way we faced an experienced offense."

"I think our defense got a lot of confidence from the game with the redshirts last week and they got more confidence as this game went along," he said.

Linebacker Petko, who had seven tackles, Hilman, who had 10 tackles, including three for losses and Carmer, who had seven tackles, led the Huskers.

Nebraska's defense had a total of 12 tackles for 48 yards in losses and four quarterback sacks for 22 yards in losses.

"This was a real game, a real test," Petko said. "You could see the look in our defensive line. We wanted to get them back for the losses the last two years. I think we all wanted to win this for Coach Thorell."

It was possibly as intense of a game as the Huskers have faced, including the game with the redshirts. "This was all-out war," Petko said. "Everybody was hitting hard. That's the way we like it." Mitchell said he was impressed with Nebraska's defense. "Except for three plays, they played very well. I think they were comparable to any Nebraska defense we've seen in recent years."

"We never did get a sustained drive. We just made too many mistakes. Of course, that's a credit to what they're doing defensively, too."

The Huskers have two more games this year, against UNO junior varsity Oct. 21, and against Waldorf Junior College of Iowa on Nov. 4.

"We can play better offensively," Thorell said. "But they put 35 points on the board. You can't ask for much more than that. In a close game the defense has to play better and they did," he said. "We have some smart players and they adjusted well to all the blitzes of the Air Force defense and to the wishbone of the Air Force offense. I think we learn a lot more from playing a game like this and I hope we get some confidence from this, too," he said. ■

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Golden Opportunities

NEBRASKA HAS LAUNCHED A PROGRAM TO HELP ATHLETES SUCCEED IN THE JOB MARKET.

You're an All-American tailback, possibly a highly sought college power forward, or even a university's top-ranked gymnast. As a football or basketball star, the pros may be the next step, but odds are, it will not.

There, unfortunately, the dream dies for many when it shouldn't. Enter the newly created University of Nebraska Husker Career Network, which helps

athletes explore non-sports job opportunities for the future while completing a college degree.

The counseling program, begun in January of this year, has several objectives. First, it assists current and former Nebraska student-athletes in making career decisions geared toward personal interests and skills. The program also provides useful strategies for entering

the job market. Plus, it focuses on the difficulty faced by many athletes making the transition from sports to "real world" careers.

The network is a combined effort of program coordinator Keith Zimmer, various businesses and companies that offer resources and opportunities, and the Nebraska Alumni Association, which helps the network find career placement opportunities.

"The program started, in large part, because of the strong athletic tradition we have here at Nebraska," said Zimmer. "That's a positive thing, but in a way it can be perceived as a roadblock because a lot of student-athletes come here and automatically assume, especially football players, there is going to be some type of athletic participation beyond the college experience."

For many of these NFL and NBA hopefuls, it can be a very sobering experience when this goal is not reached. Before the program was implemented, surveys were conducted with student-athletes, and 40 percent of the football players firmly believed they would embark on a professional athletic career after college.

Zimmer, also an academic counselor with the athletic department, said it then became evident there might be a need for a program to help in the preparation for life after sports.

"When we saw statistics like that, we knew we needed to open their (student-athletes) eyes a little bit and have them become more realistic," he said.

The program has already shown positive results.

Henry Buchanan credits Nebraska's new program with helping him achieve academic success.



One of these success stories is former Husker point guard Henry T. Buchanan, who will receive his degree in December.

Buchanan, 28, served in the Air Force and is a husband and father of one. His participation in the network has assured him of what appears to be a bright future when he leaves Nebraska.

"Fortunately, I just happened to be in the right place at the right time and I got an internship with State Farm through the network," said Buchanan, who made such an impression with the agency, he was offered a full-time position.

Now that he has the job awaiting him after graduation, Buchanan says he can devote more time to finishing his education without having to worry about job hunting.

Buchanan is still involved in the network, but now as a guest speaker telling younger student-athletes of his personal experience. He knows what it is like to dream of a pro career and see that dream fade. He cautions other student-athletes not to rely heavily on a career in the professional ranks. He encourages them to stay in school and get a degree.

"I came back to some of the orientation sessions to talk with some of the younger athletes about my opportunity and how it was presented to me," Buchanan said. He stresses the importance of having a degree because aspirations of playing professional sports are very often dashed.

"If you get your academics (in order), that will take care of your future," he emphasizes.

Cornhusker free safety Tim Jackson is another strong supporter of the Career Network.

Jackson, whose major is financial advising, hopes to make valuable contacts with companies in Dallas (his hometown) and Omaha, so he can gain experience in his field. Should Jackson enjoy a career in the NFL, which is a distinct possibility, the summer jobs and internships would no doubt ease the awkward transition from pro sports to the business world.

Like Buchanan, Jackson's advice to younger student-athletes is very straightforward.

Safety Tim Jackson is keeping an eye on the job market as well as his starting job.



"I tell them to take advantage of their available resources," said Jackson. "Being in athletics at Nebraska, one of these resources is the Career Network.

"Athletes here can use the network's computers, which makes it easier to write and edit a paper. I also tell them to take advantage of the tutorial programs because they have less time in class than other students."

"We would like to see all our student-athletes do well athletically," said Zimmer. "And our purpose is to give them a couple of good options (after school). It would be ideal if they had the chance to play pro ball, but if that didn't work out, they could quickly rebound and get into an appropriate career. If they work with us, their chances of having that lined up are pretty good."

The program is divided into three major areas: career exploration, career planning and career placement.

In career exploration, the student is given a test to determine career interests and skills. When the results are ana-

lyzed, the student is able to gain a clearer focus of his or her interests.

A computerized program known as SIGI-Plus helps the student match those specific skills with an appropriate field.

From this point, the student hooks up with a member of the Lincoln and/or Omaha business community, where these athletic Huskers can see how a job gets done.

According to Zimmer, an even more exciting program is the once-a-month career night where former Nebraska student-athletes, successful in non-athletic careers, are featured.

"We try," said Zimmer, "to bring in the former student-athletes who've made the transition (from athletics to the workplace) so they can talk about specific careers and forewarn the current student-athletes about the transition problems."

In the career planning phase, Husker athletes are instructed in the areas of resume and cover-letter writing, interviewing skills and job-search strategies.

Zimmer oversees this area and says it has begun to attract a large following.

The third phase of the network is career placement, in which companies and the Alumni Association keep in close contact with the network and school to help open avenues of career possibili-

ties, provide valuable resources and prospective employment contacts for student-athletes.

The school has made a firm commitment to the career counseling program. Its appeal to prospective student-athletes could even be another key in a highly recruited athlete choosing Nebraska.

ties, provide valuable resources and prospective employment contacts for student-athletes.

The school has made a firm commitment to the career counseling program, which is a vital cog in the athletic-academic counseling offices. Its appeal to prospective student-athletes could

even be the key in a highly recruited athlete choosing Nebraska or another school.

“It’s a good tool that’s used heavily in recruiting,” said Zimmer. “That individual may have his choices narrowed to two schools and a program like this

can be very influential on a person and especially the parents, who get excited knowing we are all committed to John Q. Student, not only as an athlete, but also as a student.”

Zimmer assures that the program will work hard to steer a youngster toward the right career, prepare them for that

field, and hopefully get them placed in a satisfying job.

While current student-athletes have the network at their disposal, those athletes who have finished their athletic eligibility and left school before graduating have the opportunity to return to Nebraska and participate in the University Consortium Program. Based out of Northeastern University in Boston, this program allows the University of Nebraska to agree to bring back former student-athletes who did not, for whatever reasons, finish their education at Nebraska, and provide the student with school services with the school funding part of the student’s remaining education. In return, the student is asked to present different workshops to elementary schools, high schools plus different colleges and universities.

“It is kind of an exchange for them being allowed to return to school, and, by speaking, they serve as role models in the community,” said Zimmer. He feels this agreement is a good direction in which the counseling program is headed.

One of the most critical elements in the success of the Career Network is the communication and participation of University of Nebraska alumni associations around the country.

“These people have been tremendously supportive in getting involved with the Career Network,” said Zimmer. “They help by providing internships, assisting with the employment of student-athletes over a summer, or coming to the campus to conduct career night and present information to the student-athletes.”

Alumni organizations and any businesses wishing to assist with the Career Network should contact Zimmer at (402) 472-2042. It should be noted the Network is not asking for financial contributions; rather it is a request for help in providing these invaluable resources for Nebraska’s student-athletes.

In a time when a college education is becoming almost a necessity to ensure a solid position in the job market, the Husker Career Network is taking steps to help student-athletes in their search for bright, productive and meaningful futures after their school days in Lincoln. ■



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Through Six Games

NU		Opp.	NU		Opp.
26	Touchdowns rushing	4	7	Interceptions	5
7	Passing	7	208	Yards returned interceptions	26
4	Other	1	30	Punts returned	11
125	First downs rushing	34	419	Yards returned punts	128
31	Passing	43	14.0	Avg. yards returned punts	11.6
9	Penalty	10	23	Kicks returned	38
165	Total	87	478	Yards returned kicks	679
375	Russing attempts	205	20.8	Avg. yards returned kicks	17.9
2,421	Yards gained	854	17	Punts	39
107	Yards lost	166	691	Yards punting	1,519
2,314	Net yards	688	40.6	Punting average	38.9
6.2	Yards per carry	3.4	41	Penalties	41
385.7	Yards per game	114.7	349	Yards penalties	329
54-99-5	Passing (Cmp-Att-Int)	74-164-7	58.2	Yards per game penalties	54.8
54.5	Completion Pct	45.1	10	Fumbles	11
622	Net yards	944	4	Lost fumbles	4
6.28	Yards per attempt	5.76	4	QB Sacked (Offense)	13
11.52	Yards per completion	12.76	71	Third downs	86
103.7	Yards per game	157.3	36	Third down conversions	25
120.6	Rating	99.0	50.7	Conversion percentage	29.1
2936	Total offense	1632	21	Fourth downs	6
474	Plays	369	12	Fourth down conversions	3
6.19	Yards per play	4.42	57.1	Conversion percentage	50.0
489.3	Yards per game	272.0	196:46	Time of possession	163:14
272	Points scored	100	33:14	Average time of possession	36:46
45.3	Points per game	16.7			



Varsity Statistics

Through Six Games

RUSHING

Player	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Clark	90	499	18	481	5.3	6	31
Taylor	77	479	50	429	6.6	6	26
Knox	26	261	0	261	10.0	1	51
Rodgers	43	264	6	259	6.0	3	28
Carpenter	26	199	0	199	7.7	2	31
Flowers	21	150	1	149	7.1	1	20
Joseph	18	149	1	148	8.2	3	22
Gdowski	13	102	3	99	7.6	1	19
Lewis	20	91	0	91	4.6	1	12
Brinson	12	84	18	66	5.5	0	17
Schmidt	9	38	0	38	4.2	1	11
Dunlap	2	32	0	32	16.0	0	24
Bell	6	33	9	24	4.0	0	12
Coleman	4	17	0	17	4.3	0	9
Devall	1	9	0	9	9.0	0	9
Harchelroad	2	8	0	8	4.0	0	5
Worden	4	4	2	2	0.5	0	2
Baldwin	1	2	0	2	2.0	1	2

Player	TDs	XP1-A	XP2-A	FG-A	Saf.	Pts.
Joseph	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	18
Carpenter	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	12
Gdowski	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Bell	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Blazek	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Schmidt	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Walker	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Brinson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Knox	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Devall	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Flowers	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Lewis	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Baldwin	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Kratzenstein	0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0	2
Marco	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2
Janky	0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1
Dunlap	0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	0

PASSING

Player	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	Int.	TDs	Rtng.
Gdowski	6	4	.667	50	0	1	191.7
Taylor	90	48	.533	556	4	6	118.3
Joseph	3	2	.667	16	1	0	44.8

RECEIVING

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Gregory	16	175	10.9	2	16
Millikan	8	107	13.4	3	22
Brinson	8	85	10.6	0	34
Bell	7	129	18.4	1	37
Turner	6	44	8.8	0	16
Clark	5	39	7.8	0	25
Worden	2	18	9.0	0	11
Flowers	1	11	11.0	0	11
Kratzenstein	1	8	8.0	0	8
Devall	1	6	6.0	1	6

SCORING

Player	TDs	XP1-A	XP2-A	FG-A	Saf.	Pts.
Taylor	6	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	38
Clark	6	0-0	1-1	0-0	0	38
Drennan	0	17-19	0-0	1-1	0	20
Rodgers	3	0-0	1-1	0-0	0	20
Barrios	0	10-10	0-0	3-5	0	19
Gregory	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	18
Millikan	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	18

PUNTING

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	Bkd.	Lg.
Kroeker	17	691	40.6	0	53

PUNT RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Gregory	7	118	16.9	1	64
Brinson	13	165	12.7	1	75
Bell	8	87	10.9	0	29
Croel	1	8	8.0	0	8
Caliendo	1	7	7.0	0	7
Walker	0	34	0.0	1	34

KICK RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Knox	1	27	27.0	0	27
Turner	1	25	25.0	0	25
Kitrell	1	22	22.0	0	22
Bell	3	65	21.7	0	28
Brinson	10	216	21.6	0	32
Rodgers	7	123	17.6	0	27

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Jackson	3	74	24.7	0	55
Blazek	2	80	40.0	1	75
Lewis	1	45	45.0	0	45
Fryar	1	9	9.0	0	9

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Player	Pos.	Tackles			Player	Pos.	Tackles		
		Unast.	Assist.	Total			Unast.	Assist.	Total
Thomas	OLB	29	25	54	Miller	LB	3	1	4
Etienne	LB	25	12	37	Harchelroad	FB	2	2	4
Cooper	SS	21	12	33	Sims	DT	1	3	4
Tyrance	LB	14	10	24	Gregory	SE	3	0	3
Griffin	DT	16	7	23	Svehla	OLB	3	0	3
Mills	OLB	11	10	21	Vampola	SS	2	1	3
Blazek	S	10	11	21	Walker	LB	2	1	3
Pete	MG	13	5	18	Anderson	C	2	0	2
Jobman	LB	11	7	18	Buchanan	LB	2	0	2
Croel	OLB	10	6	16	Edgren	MG	1	1	2
Marco	OLB	8	8	16	Valladao	DT	0	2	2
Fryar	CB	10	5	15	Drennan	PK	1	0	1
Jackson	S	9	6	15	Bell	WB	1	0	1
Brungardt	DT	10	4	14	Walker	CB	1	0	1
Lewis	CB	8	6	14	Knox	IB	1	0	1
Hagge	LB	9	3	12	Settles	CB	1	0	1
Hicks	CB	10	1	11	Crippen	CB	1	0	1
Caliendo	LB	9	2	11	Carmer	S	1	0	1
Murray	MG	5	5	10	Olson	SS	1	0	1
Wells	DT	2	8	10	Kratzenstein	TE	0	1	1
Sanders	CB	5	4	9	Garrett	TE	0	1	1
Pickens	CB	5	4	9	Janky	PK	0	1	1
Monarrez	MG	1	4	5	Wanek	OG	0	1	1
Custard	CB	4	0	4	Broer	OLB	0	0	0
Ferguson	LB	3	1	4					



Best In Nebraska

Recruiting is like charity. It should start at home and then willingly spread to all limits of the land.

At least that's the successful philosophy of Nebraska's football recruiting coordinators, Dave Gillespie (on-campus) and Jack Pierce (off-campus). Regardless of your station in life, time of the year or the success level of the present varsity, there's nothing that will ignite an in-depth discussion among the Husker football faithful faster than the schoolboy talent to be sought on signing date.

Pierce, the Cornhuskers' energetic and personable off-campus recruiter, says this about the talent in state: "It basically started with Bob Devaney, who wanted to build from within the state and surrounding areas, then go where you must find the great skill players or whatever your position needs require."

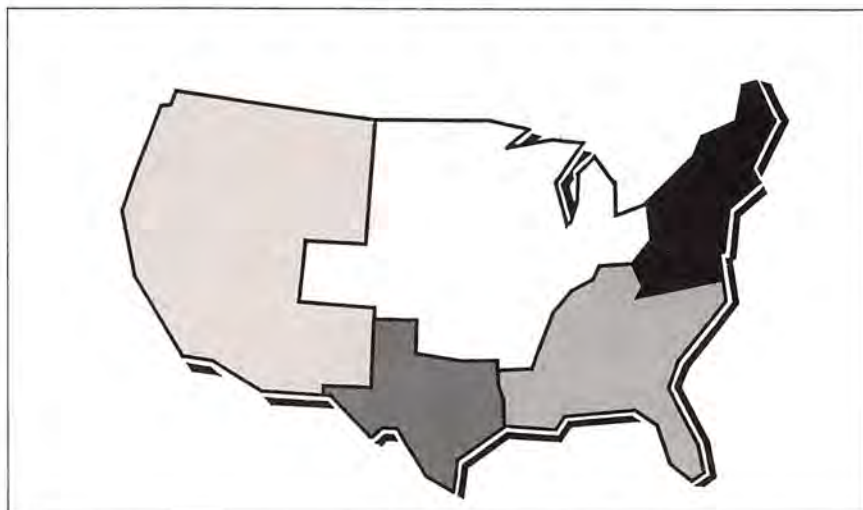
The Huskers have a strong tendency to stay within the parameters of the "position needs" theory although Pierce adds, "If a young man is a great athlete, I mean one whose outstanding abilities don't restrict him to playing just one position effectively, the exception is definitely considered and sometimes made."

"The in-state players we get are usually intelligent, hard working kids, who eventually get to play. Many of these young men are walk-ons and we want these kids to complement our program and realistically don't expect immediate help from them."

"In our area assignment process, Coach (Tom) Osborne, Dan Young and Shane Thorell have the state of Nebraska. It's almost needless to say, but they do a heckuva job."

With the Huskers' great tradition and ongoing success, does the staff ever encounter out-of-state competition for these players?

"Oh, Lord, yes! Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Iowa, Iowa State and a bunch of Big Ten schools are always in here. There are a bunch of former Nebraska coaches at Wyoming and they recruited



seven players from the state last year."

Recruiting is a fast-paced cycle in which it is difficult to find a starting spot. The number and time of recruiting visits are controlled by the NCAA and the rules fluctuate when the need arises.

Briefly and tentatively put, the recruiting season for football could start with the first three weeks in May, when eligible college recruiters can visit high school coaches and watch films of prospects who are preparing to enter their senior year in high school. Interviews are made, film collected and evaluated and at Nebraska, a thorough and complex computer file is begun on each prospect.

Then the Nebraska football staff is campus-bound until Nov. 1, which starts the "true evaluation" period and this lasts until Dec. 1. During this time, college recruiters can talk to the coaches but not the prospects.

In December, the entire Husker staff is assigned a certain area or areas, in which the search and interview of prospects continues up to the football signing date, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1989, at 8 a.m. Of course the college recruiters must break off personal contact with the prospect 48-hours before the signing date and refrain from personal contact with that recruit until the above listed time.

That's just a quick trip through the rule-laden, thoroughly scrutinized world of college football recruiting and not intended to qualify anyone as an authority on the subject.

"I've got North Texas and Louisiana as my areas," Pierce says. "Now take John Melton. He's got the Midwest, like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and both Dakotas. We tell him his travel agent gets him a car, a plane and a dog sled!"

Pierce, who assists George Darlington in tutoring the Husker secondary plus aiding with the special teams, says, "The real work period is after those first three weeks in May. It used to be mostly PR work with the various high school coaches and such, until Coach Osborne put a great emphasis on collecting data that can be evaluated from these visits."

"Now, the month of June is when you record all the information from visits with players, coaches and at least two of your own staff's opinion of what they thought after watching the film. One of the real important things is nailing down the real great prospects, the ones everybody will be after. This includes the in-state players, too."

Pierce admits, "Sure, every coach gets personally involved with the recruits in his area. We have very animated discussions about our opinions in staff meetings and we have a system by which we rate the prospects."

"When we really get stuck on a point, we go back to the computer where we have at least five different people making input on each recruit. There is some material on almost every player we've forgotten about and when we follow this process, it answers a lot of questions.

"These computer files go back four or five years and in great part we feel this is why we've had good recruiting results over the past several years."

Another reason for Nebraska's recruiting success, according to Pearce, is the emphasis and support Osborne gives his staff and everybody formally associated with the football recruiting program. Pearce claims, "Sure, it's tough and we do some tough, in-house arguing over what we want to do but in the end, it's kept in the family and we're in agreement over which direction we're headed."

It appears the Huskers have adequately adopted chewing gum magnate Bill Wrigley's philosophy of, "When two people in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary."

Pearce, who air-travels approximately 70,000 miles a year, has also recruited in the Nebraska area, too. Of the 72 players listed on the working depth chart, a list which changes weekly — if not daily — 45 percent are Nebraska products. There are 13 states represented on the present chart with 10 players from California, six from Texas and four from Illinois, to list the leaders.

Of Pearce's in-state recruiting trips, he laughs, "Coach Osborne is always getting on me for the way I drive. But, traveling by plane with him is no picnic, either. He's always on the phone!"

"I don't know how many times we've been in an airport about one or two minutes before they're going to close the gate and he's on the phone. Of course, he's a workaholic and I don't think he realizes United, Eastern or whatever airlines, isn't going to wait for him just because he coaches football at Nebraska!"

Many of the recruiting trips aren't without their hairy and scary moments. When visiting Lisco, Neb., to look at linebacker Randall Jobman, Pearce recalls, "We hired a private pilot out of North Platte because we felt he would know the area.

"The landing strip at Oshkosh wasn't much and we had to dodge around the duck blinds to land. The only transportation available was a pick-up truck with the off-side door jammed. It was only three or four hundred yards to the football field but I'm sure we made a good image for Nebraska football when we drove up there in the back of that truck.

"Then, when taking off to return home, the runway was short and the pilot had to pull the plane up rather sharply. The stall buzzer sounded and even though nothing happened, it was pretty scary!"

Another story involves a private plane venture to a tiny West Texas community to watch a player. Pearce is all smiles when he tells, "We landed on a smoothed out dirt strip. There were no cars or buildings, or anything, except a phone on an old telephone pole.

"The phone was hooked up to the police station and they came out and picked us up and took us where we wanted to go. We had plenty of room for the return takeoff but when we were about halfway down the runway, gravel was flying up so thick that it cracked our front windshield.

"There was no need of going back because nobody was there. So, we flew all

the way to Lubbock to get it fixed with me holding a rain coat against the growing break in the window."

Even with these hair-raising anecdotes, Pearce sincerely and gratefully applauds Osborne and staff. He adds, "You can't realize the cooperation I get from Coach, the staff and the encouraging feeling Dave and I get from Coach Osborne.

"I can't forget Pat (Sudman, secretary), either. She's been there through (Jerry) Pettibone and Steve Pederson. She knows it all. When a coach wants to recall something about a prospect, present or past, Pat's got it at her fingertips. We'd be lost without her."

How can a man accept such a mad-denying pace?

"I guess because it's a warm, professional family, even though it's wild," Pearce shrugs. "Or maybe, when I was growing up as a kid in Connecticut, I was about 7 or 8 years old and once a year my dad would take me down to Yankee Stadium.

"I can remember the excitement of my heart beating so fast as we would approach the stadium...well, I likened that to the first time I ran out on the field with the team at Nebraska. It was, and still is, quite a thrill."■

Top Nebraska Schoolboys

(Listed alphabetically)

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	High School
DB	Marcus Anderson	5-9	160	Omaha (Creighton Prep)
LB	Mike Anderson	6-1	210	Grand Island
QB	Scott Bream	6-0	175	Omaha (Millard South)
DT	Junior Bryant	6-5	265	Omaha (Creighton Prep)
DB	Bob Cook	5-10	170	Omaha (Millard South)
G/LB	Chris DeMuth	6-5	215	Seward
C/LB	Chris Duggan	6-3	220	Lincoln (Pius X)
QB	Chris Eubanks	6-3	180	Lincoln (East)
RB/WR	Abe Hoskins	6-0	168	Omaha (Central)
DL	David Noonan	6-3	240	Lincoln (Northeast)
LB	D.J. Rezac	6-0	214	Omaha (Westside)
WR/DB	Eric Schepers	6-1	160	Fairmont
FB/LB	Brent Schwerdtfeger	6-0	210	Lincoln (Northeast)
RB	Shawn Smith	6-2	180	Lincoln (High)
WR	Matt Spethman	5-10	155	Lincoln (East)
RB	Dale Van Housen	5-11	180	Polk-Hordville
PK	Neil Volker	5-10	195	Lincoln (Southeast)
LB	John Wernhoff	6-1	230	Grand Island
RB/LB	Bob Wilkerson	6-0	180	Clay Center
RB	Kelly Yancy	5-11	175	Omaha (Central)

ASK TOM

Q: Of the significant injuries we've had this year, do any of those players have a chance of getting an extra year of eligibility? I thought it was particularly a shame that Terry Rodgers got hurt just when he was starting to really do well. Terry Fletcher, Santa Fe, N.M.

A: No, I don't think so, because Terry Rodgers and Sam Schmidt have both been redshirted. Once in a while there's some special case where you hear about a guy who plays a sixth year, but I don't really know of any rule right now where that could happen. Right now, Terry and Sam would be the only players who've had injuries that were severe enough to keep them out for the year. Plus, there are limits on the number of games you can play and still get a medical redshirt. If we lost anyone now for the rest of the season, I don't think there would be any avenue to take if they had already played in every game.

Q: I have noticed many times that varsity players get recognized in many ways by coaches and their teammates. These seem like nice ways to let them know they're successes, such as letter jackets, being named team captain, being picked Lifter of the Year and other post-season things that come from other booster groups. But do the Huskers do such things for the freshmen and scout teams? Jim Reeder, Savannah, Ga.

A: Freshmen get an award for participation. On the scout team, we have a scout team Player of the Week on offense and defense, and their names are put on a plaque. Each week we have a different pair of scout team honorees. But that's about the only kind of recognition they get. They do get a chance, if they're eligible otherwise, to go to a bowl game.

Q: Going into the season, I know the tight end position was really considered a concern, and I know how critical that position can be because that person has to be both a good receiver and good blocker to do the job for Nebraska. Todd Millikan seems to be healthy, and I'm



happy for him, but is the depth behind him shaping up, too? Allen Butler, St. Louis, Mo.

A: So far I think Millikan has done a real good job. Chris Garrett's getting better. He's still recovering from shoulder surgery, but I think he's feeling much better and getting closer to where he was in the spring. Corey Grobe's done fairly well. It looks like William Washington and Chris Garrett next year will have a chance to contribute a great deal.

Q: Hooray for the five-and-dime defense! I can tell it's made a big difference in how the Black Shirts attack the passing game of opponents. Is it something we'll be using again next year, though, or is the five-and-dime defense just something you've experimented with this season because it fits the personnel we have? Mike Odell, Ashland, Neb.

A: I think we'll probably continue to use it. It's particularly important this year when you've got a guy like Broderick Thomas who you want to get involved in the pass rush. And, yes, I think you could say the secondary is playing better than last year. We've had

to mix and match some people in the secondary this year because of injuries and because of the newness of the nickel defense plus other things, too. When we've had that unit together, they've done some good things. Reggie Cooper at strong safety has turned into a very good player. He supports the run well. He's a punishing tackler. About the only thing he doesn't do real well is cover man-to-man, and you'll find that's true of most big people, and Reggie's pretty big — I think about 6-foot-4 and 210 pounds — for a safety. He's already one of the better strong safeties we've had, and if he keeps improving, he could be the best. So, there are several reasons why we've done a little better in the secondary. The defensive scheme is part of it, but so are the players.

Q: Coach, I'm sure tickled to see Steve Taylor throwing the ball well and hitting his passes right at that 50-percent mark. That's a benchmark for calling yourself a good quarterback I think. Morgan Gregory and old Todd Millikan are doing a fine job. But I would like to get your answer to the running back question as to how much we should throw to them. Ken Clark has a few catches. Looks like he's a keeper as a receiver. In our new souped-up passing attack, will we be throwing to the backs more? Kevin Greer, Washington, D.C.

A: One thing you've got to keep in mind about what we're doing this year, is that we already are throwing to the backs. It may not seem like it, I understand. But we pass a lot from the spread formation, and in that formation, we've got two backs at the corners and the fullback lined up behind Steve Taylor. What happens there is that we don't use a true I-back look. But those two backs definitely come out of the backfield — the fullback stays put to block. It's worked well for us, and I think you'll see that we've had several of our backs catching the ball already.

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■



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